おやすみプンプン ⑨ 浅野いにお

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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COMICS

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小学館
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雑誌 45365-29　小学館

HEARING THE MUFFLED LAUGHTER OF HIS CO-WORKERS COMING ACROSS THE DOOR, HE THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR HIM TO QUIT THIS PART-TIME JOB TOO. WHILE WALKING HOME, HE SPOTTED A WOMAN LYING DOWN UNCONSCIOUS ALONG THE SIDEWALK. HE NERVOUSLY APPROACHED HER, WONDERING IF SHE HAD DIED, BUT SHE TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A PASSED-OUT DRUNK. A BROWN-HAIRED WOMAN WEARING HIGH-HEEL BOOTS, FRAYED JEANS, AND A WHITE T-SHIRT THAT DID LITTLE TO COVER HER BARE STOMACH WHICH SEEMED TO READ, "PLEASE RAPE ME." CLICKING HIS TONGUE IN DISGUST, HE QUICKLY LEFT THE SCENE AND HEADED HOME. SOME FEW HOURS AFTER RETURNING HOME, HE BECAME SUDDENLY WORRIED FOR THAT WOMAN EARLIER SO HE WENT BACK OUT TO LOOK FOR HER. HOWEVER, WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE PLACE, SHE WAS NO LONGER THERE. THE VOICE OF THE DAYTIME TALK SHOW HOST DRIFTED INSIDE HIS EAR, WHERE IT TRIGGERED AN ELECTRICAL SYNAPSE THAT SLOWLY AWOKE HIS BRAIN. IT SEEMED THAT HE HAD SLEPT FOR NEARLY 12 HOURS BECAUSE OF MAY'S WARM WEATHER. AFTER FINALLY OPENING HIS HALF-CLOSED EYES, HE SAW AN AMATEUR IMPRESSIONIST ON TV TRYING TO DO AN IMPRESSION OF SOME FAMOUS PERSON HE DID NOT KNOW. A POPULAR COMEDIAN THEN TOLD A JOKE TO GET THE AUDIENCE FIRED UP BUT TO HIM, THE EVENTS ON SCREEN COULDN'T SEEM LESS REAL. LIKE A CONVERSATION BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE OF AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, THE SHOW SEEMED NOTHING MORE THAN THE HAPPENINGS OF A WORLD FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HIM. FEELING THIRSTY, HE LOOKED AROUND THE TABLE FOR SOMETHING TO PARCH HIS THROAT BUT HE COULD ONLY FIND HALF-DRUNK CANS OF COFFEE. AS HE CONSIDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO JUST DRINK HIS OWN URINE AND EXCRETE IT BACK OUT, ONLY TO DRINK IT AGAIN AND SO FORTH, THE SOUND OF HIS MAILBOX BEING OPENED WAS HEARD. IT STARTLED HIM FOR A MOMENT, BUT HE THEN REALIZED IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL BILLS. AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO OTHER REASON WHY ANYONE IN THIS WORLD WOULD NEED TO CONTACT HIM FOR. THE BILLS INFORMED HIM THAT IF HE DID NOT PAY WITHIN 5 DAYS, HIS ELECTRICITY WOULD BE CUT OFF. HE WONDERED WHY HE TIME AND TIME AGAIN DELAYED DOING THESE SIMPLE THINGS. TO DO ANYTHING WHEN LIVING ALONE SEEMED TO MAKE THINGS SO HECTIC YET TO DO NOTHING WAS TOO BORING. AT THE BOOKSTORE JUST IN FRONT OF HIS WORKPLACE, HE READ A GUIDE ON HOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE. IT SEEMED THAT HANGING YOURSELF FROM A DOOR KNOB WAS A GOOD METHOD. HOLDING THE BOOK IN HAND, HE WALKED UP TO THE REGISTER BUT THERE HE NOTICED A CUTE, ROUND-FACED, GLASSES-WEARING FEMALE CASHIER BEING BERATED BY A MIDDLE-AGED MALE CUSTOMER. FOR SOME REASON, LOOKING AT HER CRYING WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM START CRYING TOO. HE IMAGINED HIMSELF DOING A SWEEPING LEG THROW ON THE MEAN OLD MAN AND REPEATEDLY PUNCHING HIM AFTERWARDS UNTIL HIS BRAINS SPLATTERED OUT BUT OF COURSE, HE HAD NO SUCH COURAGE TO ACTUALLY CARRY IT OUT. UNABLE TO BEAR THE SCENE ANY LONGER, HE LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT BUYING THE BOOK. HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT IF HE HAD THE COURAGE TO KILL HIMSELF, HE SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE AHEAD AND KILLED THAT MAN. BUT HE KNEW THAT WAS JUST HOW HIS PATHETIC, WEAK-WILLED SELF WAS.

スピリッツ
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Oyasumi Punpun 9

Asano Inio

小学館

THE VOICE OF THE DAYTIME TALK SHOW HOST DRIFTED INSIDE HIS EAR, WHERE IT TRIGGERED AN ELECTRICAL SYNAPSE THAT SLOWLY AWOKE HIS BRAIN. IT SEEMED THAT HE HAD SLEPT FOR NEARLY 12 HOURS BECAUSE OF MAY'S WARM WEATHER. AFTER FINALLY OPENING HIS HALF-CLOSED EYES, HE SAW AN AMATEUR IMPRESSIONIST ON TV TRYING TO DO AN IMPRESSION OF SOME FAMOUS PERSON HE DID NOT KNOW. A POPULAR COMEDIAN THEN TOLD A JOKE TO GET THE AUDIENCE FIRED UP BUT TO HIM, THE EVENTS ON SCREEN COULDN'T SEEM LESS REAL. LIKE A CONVERSATION BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE OF AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, THE SHOW SEEMED NOTHING MORE THAN THE HAPPENINGS OF A WORLD FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HIM. FEELING THIRSTY, HE LOOKED AROUND THE TABLE FOR SOMETHING TO PARCH HIS THROAT BUT HE COULD ONLY FIND HALF-DRUNK CANS OF COFFEE. AS HE CONSIDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO JUST DRINK HIS OWN URINE AND EXCRETE IT BACK OUT, ONLY TO DRINK IT AGAIN AND SO FORTH, THE SOUND OF HIS MAILBOX BEING OPENED WAS HEARD. IT STARTLED HIM FOR A MOMENT, BUT HE THEN REALIZED IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL BILLS. AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO OTHER REASON WHY ANYONE IN THIS WORLD WOULD NEED TO CONTACT HIM FOR. THE BILLS INFORMED HIM THAT IF HE DID NOT PAY WITHIN 5 DAYS, HIS ELECTRICITY WOULD BE CUT OFF. HE WONDERED WHY HE TIME AND TIME AGAIN DELAYED DOING THESE SIMPLE THINGS. TO DO ANYTHING WHEN LIVING ALONE SEEMED TO MAKE THINGS SO HECTIC YET TO DO NOTHING WAS TOO BORING. AT THE BOOKSTORE JUST IN FRONT OF HIS WORKPLACE, HE READ A GUIDE ON HOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE. IT SEEMED THAT HANGING YOURSELF FROM A DOOR KNOB WAS A GOOD METHOD. HOLDING THE BOOK IN HAND, HE WALKED UP TO THE REGISTER BUT THERE HE NOTICED A CUTE, ROUND-FACED, GLASSES-WEARING FEMALE CASHIER BEING BERATED BY A MIDDLE-AGED MALE CUSTOMER. FOR SOME REASON, LOOKING AT HER CRYING WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM START CRYING TOO. HE IMAGINED HIMSELF DOING A SWEEPING LEG THROW ON THE MEAN OLD MAN AND REPEATEDLY PUNCHING HIM AFTERWARDS UNTIL HIS BRAINS SPLATTERED OUT BUT OF COURSE, HE HAD NO SUCH COURAGE TO ACTUALLY CARRY IT OUT. UNABLE TO BEAR THE SCENE ANY LONGER, HE LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT BUYING THE BOOK. HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT IF HE HAD THE COURAGE TO KILL HIMSELF, HE SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE AHEAD AND KILLED THAT MAN. BUT HE KNEW THAT WAS JUST HOW HIS PATHETIC, WEAK-WILLED SELF WAS. AT THE PARK WHILE EATING BREAD, HE IMAGINED HIMSELF GOING OUT WITH THAT FEMALE CASHIER AND HAVING SEX. HOWEVER, UNLESS 10 MIRACLES WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM, IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT SUCH FANTASIES WOULD EVER COME TRUE. AFTER MUCH THOUGHT, HE DECIDED TO ASK HIS CO-WORKER IF HE COULD JOIN THE MIXER AFTER ALL, BUT HIS CO-WORKER REPLIED THAT THE NUMBER OF PARTY MEMBERS HAD ALREADY BEEN SET AND UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE CHANGED. SEEING THE TROUBLED LOOK ON HIS CO-WORKER'S FACE, HE QUICKLY STAMMERED, "IT'S FINE THEN, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME," ALL THE WHILE WONDERING JUST WHAT EXACTLY IN HIS LIFE WAS "FINE." FEELING A LITTLE EMBARRASSED, HE NERVOUSLY LAUGHED TO HIMSELF BEFORE ACCIDENTALLY LETTING OUT A BIG SNORT. SOON AFTERWARDS, HE WAS MET BY A STOMACH-ACHE SO HE RETREATED TO THE WASHROOM WHERE HE LET OUT A GREAT BIG SHIT LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WITH BOWEL PROBLEMS.

Goodnight Punpun 9

Asano Inio

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

Cast of Characters

Onodera Punpun
A worthless 20 year-old who sleeps with women only to never contact them again
Freeter

Nanjou Sachi
A tough, 24 year old girl aiming to be a mangaka.
Cram-school tutor

Mimura Setsuyuki
A dashing young lad
University student

Kanie Miyuki
A chubby girl who's Sachi's friend and former classmate
Wife

Shishido Heiroku
Owner of Shishido Heights Real estates.

Seki Masumi
A runaway child who misunderstood freedom

Shimizu
A strange boy who can't wake up from his dreams
University student

Toshiki
A fairy living in the city

Paopao Channel
A lolicon internet-addict.
42 years old

Echo Back
A feminist and strong supporter of organic food
Associate university professor

White Pig
70kg of pure magic
Shopkeep

Having-one-left-battery-left-over-is-troublesome
Having one left battery left over is troublesome.

Love Infinite
Physical Education graduate and swimmer

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The story until now:

Stumbling in and out of one confusing situation after another, all the while maintaining a half-baked relationship status that's more-than-just-friends-but-not-quite-lovers, Punpun finishes the manga he and Sachi worked on. And as the new year unfolds, the couple nervously approach the publishing company with their manuscript.

Ass Hamburger
A cheery girl whose dream is to be an anime voice actress. (・ ω<)

Guardian Angel Gibobogigi
A middle-aged woman who can't gauge the mood
Mother of two

Contrary
Nice to meet you, baby
Deliveryman

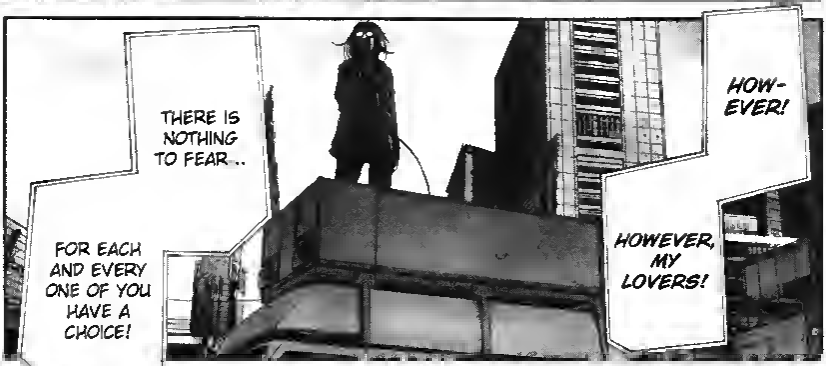
Pussy Princess (Numata Hiromi)
A sexy girl worried about her future
University student.

Sweet Pretty Lonely Heart Fluffybro (Wada)
A math-man who loves the absolute
Cram tutor and Toshiki's former classmate

Tanaka Aiko

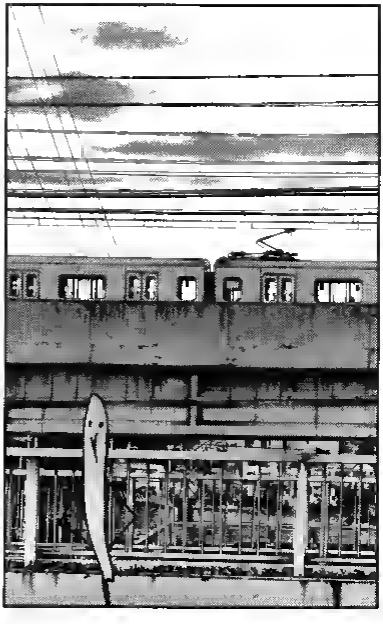
Chapter 90

HALF A YEAR FROM NOW...
OUR EARTH SHALL MEET ITS END...
CAN YOU HEAR IT AS WELL...?
THE CRYING OF THE UNIVERSE...


HOW-EVER!
HOWEVER, MY LOVERS!
THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR...
FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAVE A CHOICE!

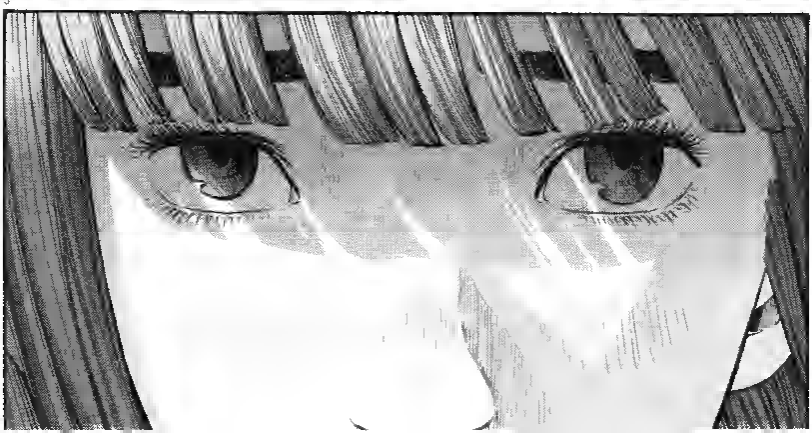
SO WILL YOU JOIN ME,
IN CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF A NEW WORLD?

GOOD, GOOD, GOOD, GOOD,
GOOOOO OOOOOD VIBRA- TIONS!



TANAKA AIKO...
RIGHT...?

5



...SORRY, I'M IN A RUSH.
GOING TO SOMEONE'S FUNERAL...?

GOOD LUCK WITH BEING A MODEL
YOU WERE IN THAT GRAVURE MAGAZINE, WEREN'T YOU?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PERSON.

NOT A VERY FRIENDLY ONE, IS SHE...

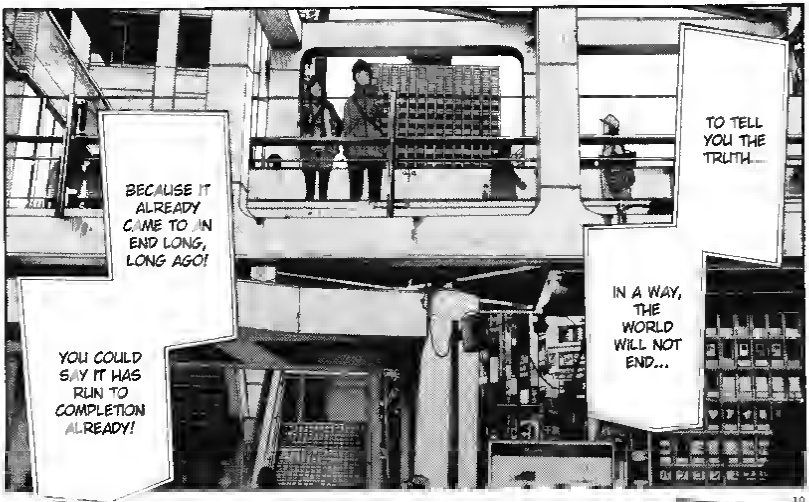
MY FATHER, HOSHI-KAWA PIROSHIKI,
PASSED AWAY YESTERDAY.

HELLO?
NO, NO. WE'RE STILL IN SHINJUKU.

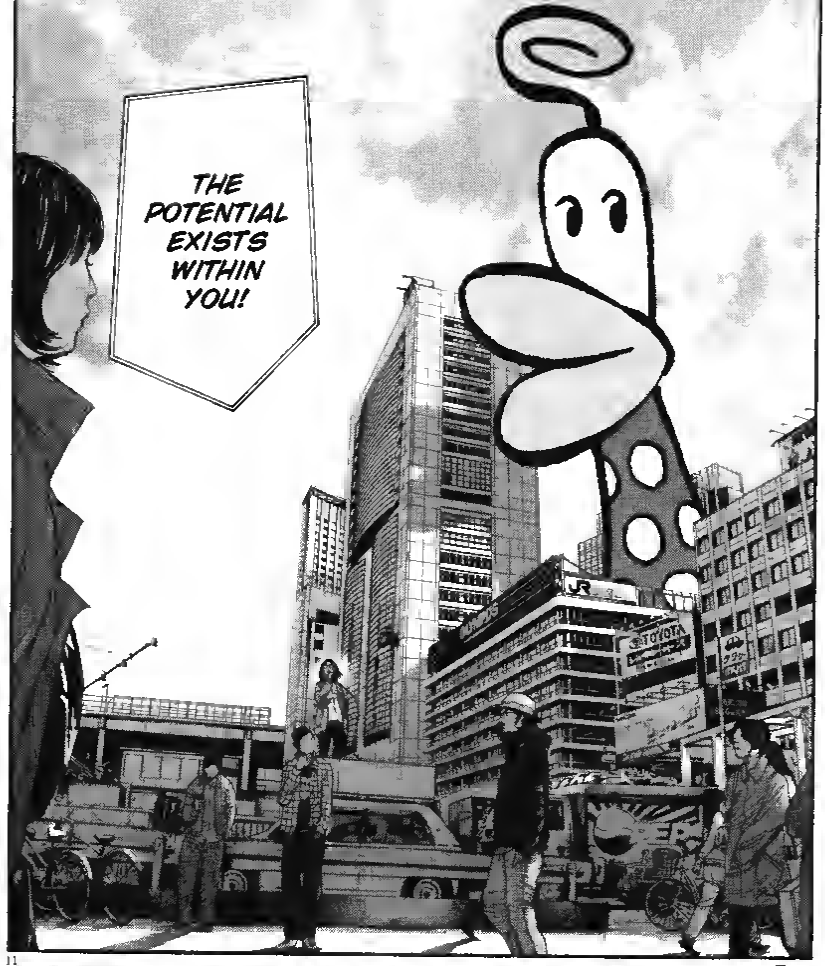
THE DISTURBANCE IN THE OSCILLATIONS SHALL CAUSE AN EVEN GREATER DISSONANCE,
AND WILL SURELY CALL FORTH THE ABSOLUTE...

CREEPY NUTJOB.
YOU THERE...
SHUT UP AND PAY YOUR TAXES, YOU BUM!
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

C'MON, ONODERA LET'S HURRY...
WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY!?
THE EDITOR NOW SAYS HE WANTS TO PUSH THE MEETING 30 MINUTES EARLIER!


BECAUSE IT ALREADY CAME TO AN END LONG, LONG AGO!
YOU COULD SAY IT HAS RUN TO COMPLETION ALREADY!
IN A WAY, THE WORLD WILL NOT END...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

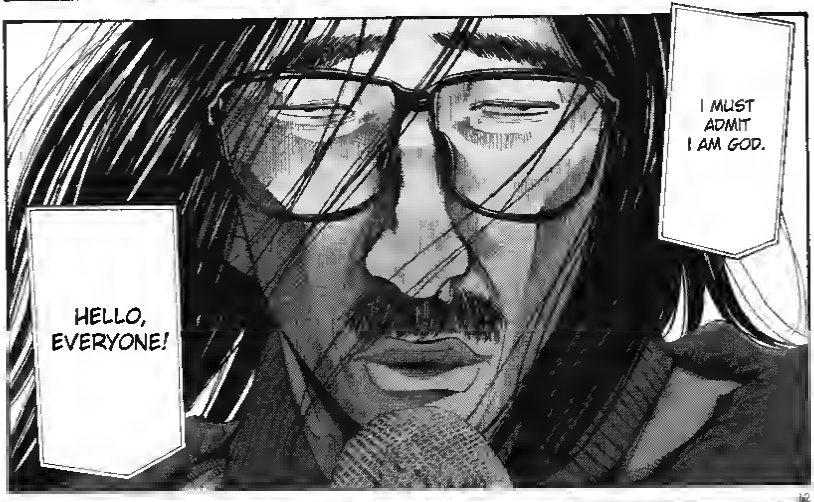
SO THROW ASIDE ALL ELSE AND BARE YOUR HOPES! LET US CREATE A NEW WORLD TOGETHER!
YOU MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE HOPE THAT EXISTS WITHIN YOURSELVES!
HOWEVER, LOVERS!

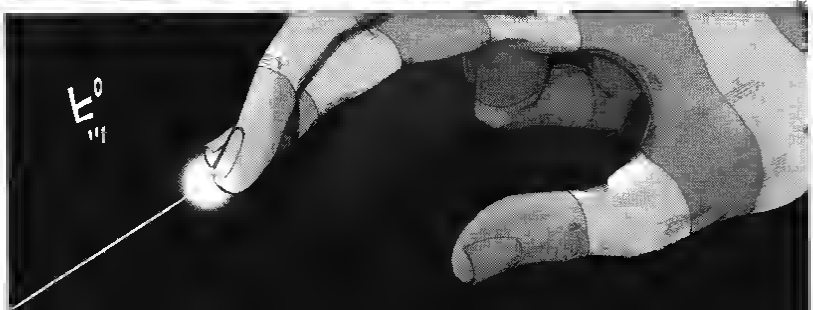

THE POTENTIAL EXISTS WITHIN YOU!

11

IF YOU SAY THAT YOU WILL,
THEN I SHALL GLADLY BECOME YOUR CORNERSTONE...
JR新宿ビル
OLYMPOS

MY FATHER, HOSHIKAWA PIROSHIKI,
ONCE SAID THAT GOD EXISTS NOT AS A SINGULAR ENTITY BUT IN MANY FORMS IN THE HEARTS OF HUMANS.
BUT TODAY, I WOULD LIKE TO CHALLENGE THAT NOTION!
THOUGH EMBARR-ASSING,


I MUST ADMIT I AM GOD.
HELLO, EVERYONE!


ヒロ

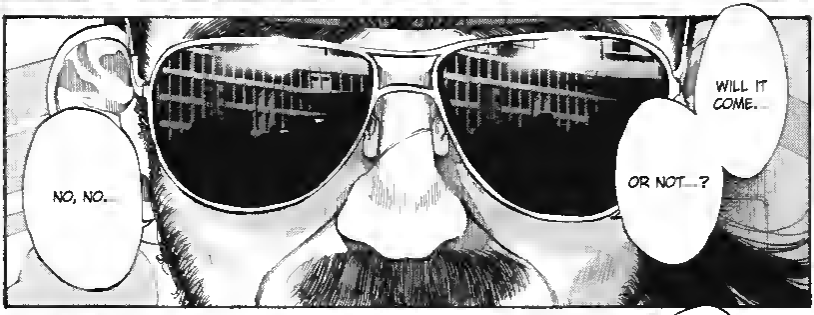
LIMONE
HAPPY NEW YEAR BARGAIN
1.1~1.9

HAPPY NEW YEAR BARGAIN
1.1~1.7

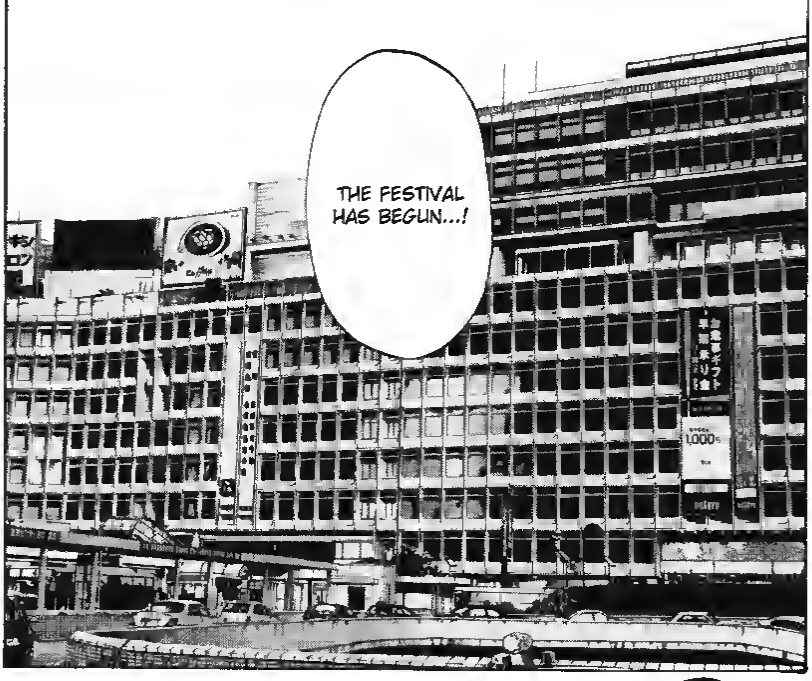
ププすおやみぷ

Oyasumi Punpun

Asano Inio


WILL IT COME...
OR NOT...?
NO, NO...

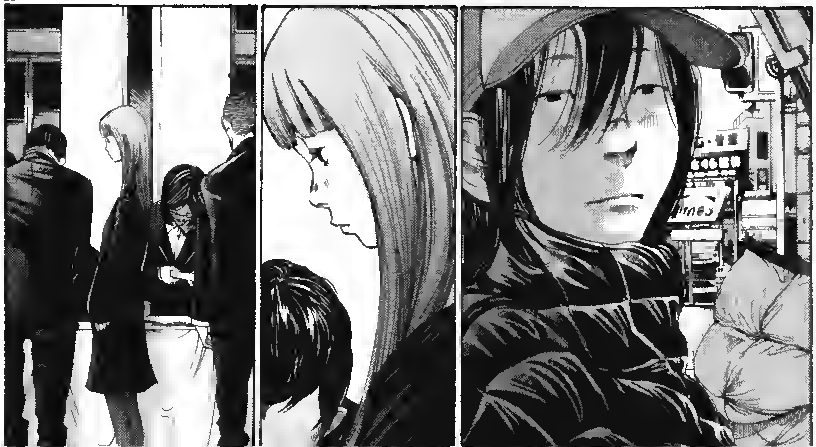
720m
東京都庁
Tokyo Metropolitan Government
新宿警察署
Shinjuku Police Sta.
500m
IT'S ALREADY...
BEGUN...!


THE FESTIVAL HAS BEGUN...!

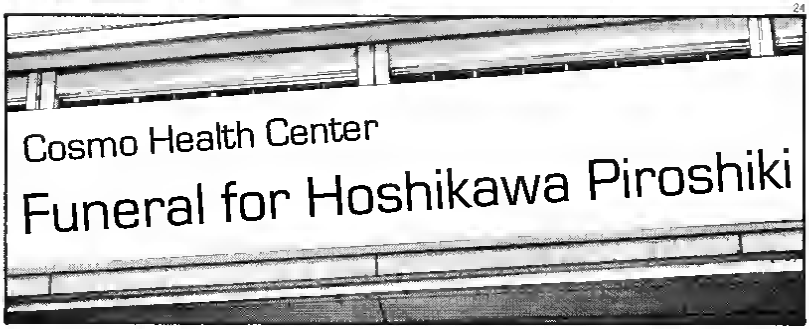
PRETTY SURE IT WAS IN HERE SOME-WHERE...
AH, FOUND IT.

SEE...
I KNEW I HAD THE RIGHT PERSON.
グランプリはどの子に!?

SHE SURE SUCKS AT FAKING A SMILE.
Tanaka Aiko (19)

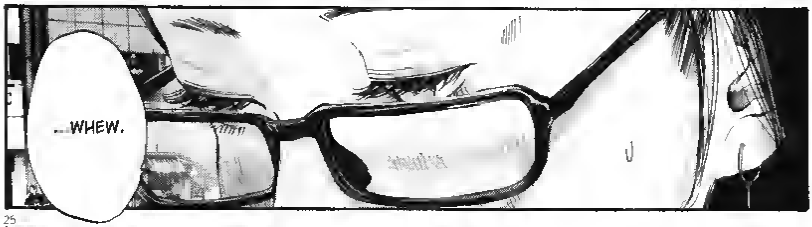


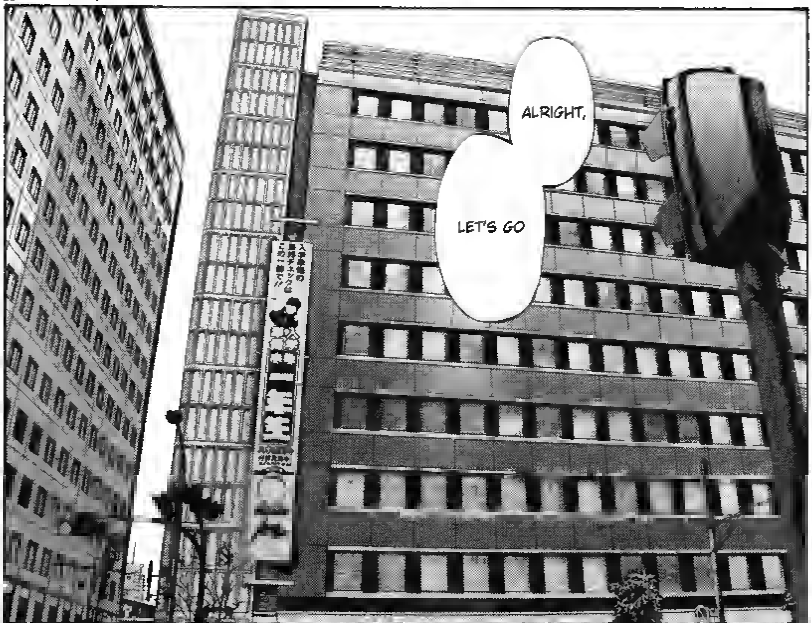
LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE ALSO BEEN TOUGH FOR HER ..
Cosmo Health Center
Funeral for Hoshikawa Piroshiki

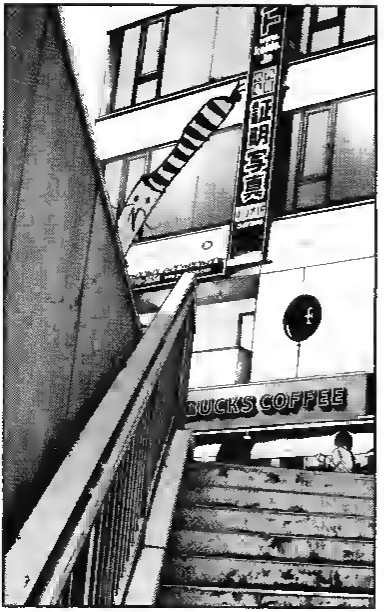

Cosmo Health Center
Funeral for Hoshikawa Piroshiki

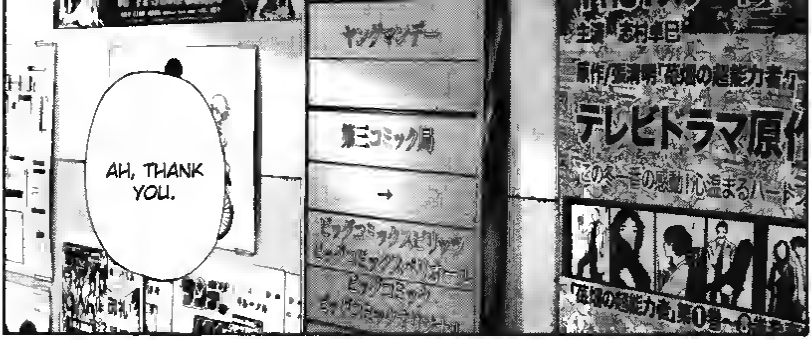
LISTEN UP, PUNPUN!
THERE'S NOTHING AT ALL TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT!
JUST LEAVE THE TALKING TO ME. YOU CAN JUST SIT THERE SILENTLY IF YOU WANT!

WHAT? STOP STARING AT ME LIKE THAT!
I'VE NEVER BEEN NERVOUS OVER A MEASLY APPOINTMENT IN MY LIFE!


...WHEW.


ALRIGHT,
LET'S GO

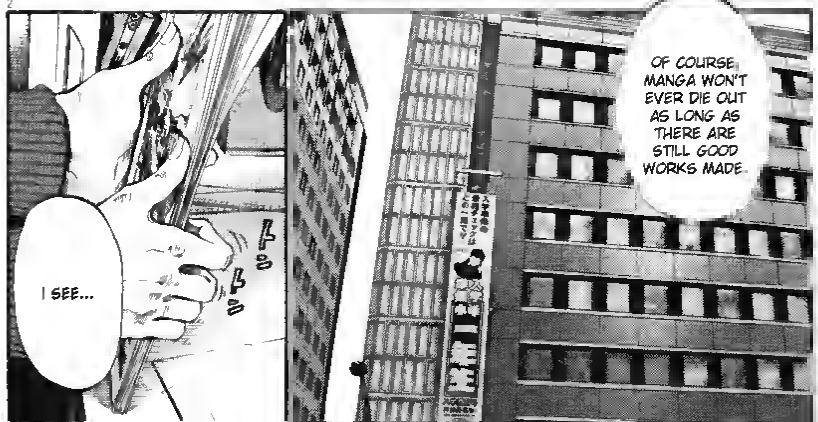

証明写真
UCKS COFFEE


AH, THANK YOU.
ヤングマンデー
第三コミック局
→
テレビドラマ原作

OH, HI THERE.
COULD YOU JUST WAIT BY THE BOOTH FOR A MINUTE?

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT MANGA PUBLISHING RECESSION IS OLD HAT.

BUT I WON'T DENY THAT THERE'S BEEN MORE APPEALING THINGS THAN MANGA PUBLISHED AS OF LATE.
20m
地下鉄 神保町駅
Jinbocho Subway Sta.

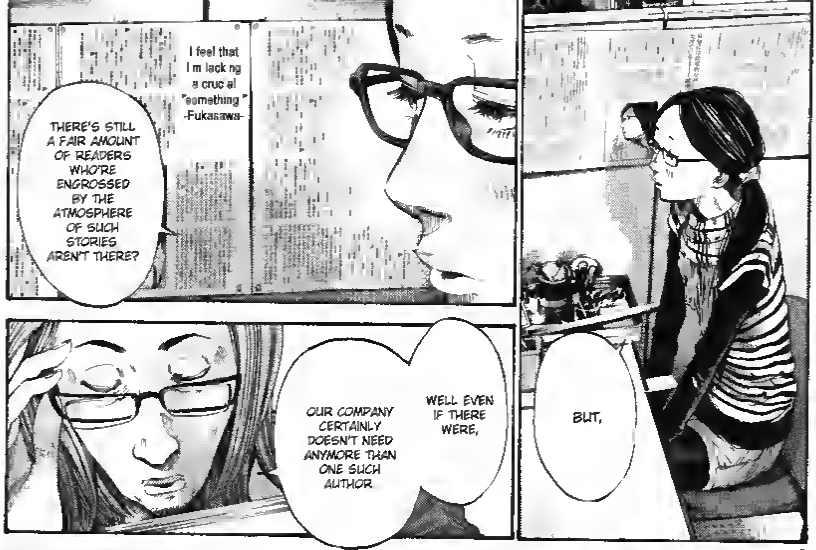

OF COURSE, MANGA WON'T EVER DIE OUT AS LONG AS THERE ARE STILL GOOD WORKS MADE.
I SEE...

AS USUAL, YOUR ART AND LAYOUT ARE WELL DONE.
NICE WORK, MS. NANJOU.
SO YOU TWO WORKED ON THIS TOGETHER?
AH, YES... HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE .. STORY, SORT OF.
I SUPPOSE THIS IS AS USUAL AS WELL...
HOW-EVER...
I'M STILL NOT SURE HOW INTER-ESTING THIS ACTUALLY IS.
AH, WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK?
3

AH,
HELLO THERE, MR FUKASAWA.
I HAVE TO SAY YOUR LAST WORK WAS EXCELLENT.
15

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOU'RE A FAN OF FUKASAWA, AREN'T YOU, MS. NANJOU?

WELL, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, BUT EVEN HIS WORKS CAN BE A LITTLE....
HIS WORKS SELL WELL ENOUGH AS SEPARATE VOLUMES BUT THEY'RE NOT QUITE POPULAR ENOUGH TO SELL THE WHOLE MAGAZINE.
AND HIS STORIES CAN BE A LITTLE HEAVY-HANDED, BUT I SUPPOSE IT'S FINE SINCE THE CONTENT ITSELF ISN'T TOO DEEP OR ANYTHING...
BUT I SUPPOSE THAT'S JUST HOW LESS-MAINSTREAM WORKS ARE.


I feel that I'm lacking a crucial "something" -Fukasawa-
THERE'S STILL A FAIR AMOUNT OF READERS WHO'RE ENGROSSED BY THE ATMOSPHERE OF SUCH STORIES AREN'T THERE?
WELL EVEN IF THERE WERE,
OUR COMPANY CERTAINLY DOESN'T NEED ANYMORE THAN ONE SUCH AUTHOR.
BUT,

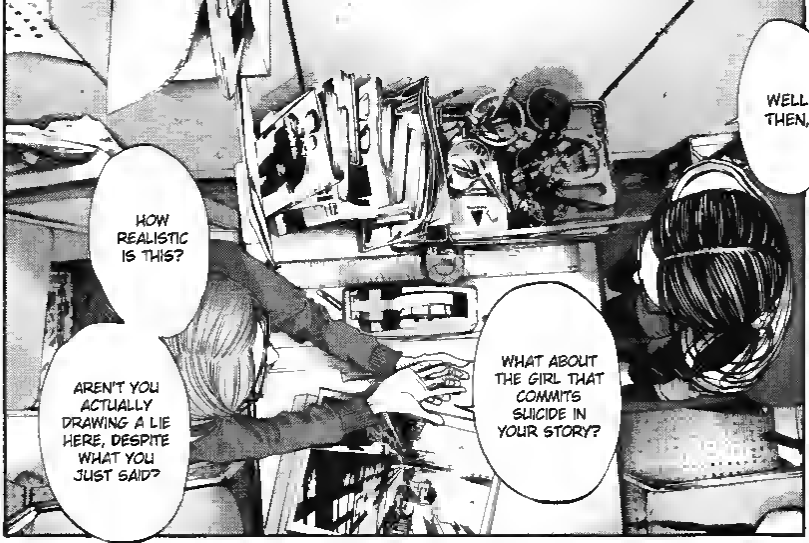
NOW ABOUT YOUR "A MIDDAY'S SHOOTING STAR"...
HELLO?
I'M CALLING ABOUT THE LINE ON PANEL 3, PAGE 16
IN IT, THE JOBLESS PROTAGONIST LIVING A MONOTONOUS LIFE RUNS ACROSS HIS FORMER HIGHSCHOOL CLASSMATE WHILE IN TOKYO.
A FEW DAYS LATER, HE HEARS THAT SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AND, AFTER REALIZING THE WORLD KEEPS ON SPINNING AS USUAL, DECIDES TO MOVE ON WITH HIS LIFE...
IN MY OPINION, THE PROTAGONIST IS JUST TOO SELF-CONTAINED FOR THIS STORY TO BE ANY INTERESTING.

I REALLY CAN'T SEE THIS STORY AS ANYTHING MORE THAN BEING ABOUT SOME EMO-KID
EVEN IF IT DIDN'T, THE SELF-CONFIDENCE GAINED FROM HARD WORK WOULD THEN GUIDE HIS FUTURE
AND HONESTLY, MOST WORRIES A 20-YEAR OLD COULD POSSIBLY HAVE CAN BE SIMPLY SOLVED IF HE JUST FOUND A JOB AND WORKED HARD AT IT

AND YET, THEY DON'T ALL ACT AS DEPRESSED AS YOUR PROTAGONIST.
THERE ARE MUCH MORE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE OUT THERE IN THIS WORLD,
AND IT MAKES HIM SEEM LIKE SUCH A SPOILED CHILD.
HIS SELF-PITY IS JUST ANNOYING,

ABOUT THE TRULY MISFORTUNATE PEOPLE OF SOCIETY?
YOU'D RATHER HAVE ME WRITE A MOVING STORY,
SO IN OTHER WORDS,

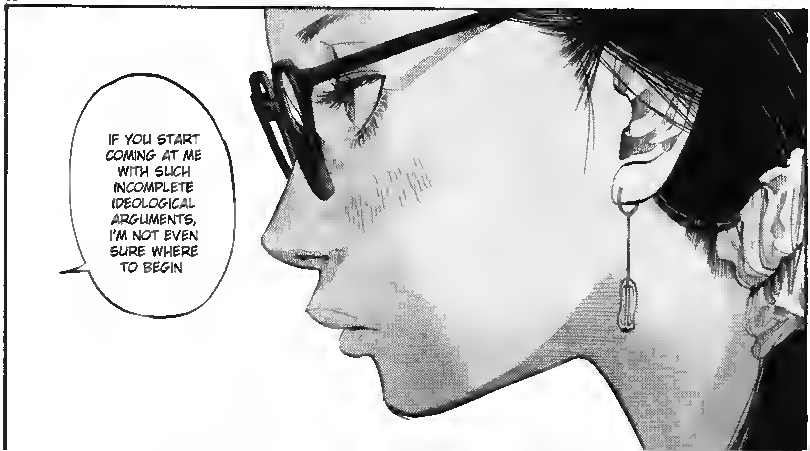
I'M AFRAID I DON'T HAVE THE PROPER QUALIFICATIONS TO DRAW SUCH A STORY,
AND IF I WERE TO DRAW IT, I'D FEEL LIKE I'D BE DRAWING JUST ONE BIG LIE
AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE ARE RELATIVE,
SO I BELIEVE THAT SYMPATHIZING WITH THE MISFORTUNES OF OTHERS IS NOTHING MORE THAN SELF-DECEIT.
HMM...
I WANT TO DRAW A STORY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN AVERAGE PERSON!
BECAUSE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN TODAY IS ONE WHERE EVEN THE HOPELESS CAN CONTINUE LIVING THEIR DREARY LIVES WITHOUT FEAR OF GOING HUNGRY!
IT'S MY CONVICTION THAT THE COURAGE TO RISK FAILURE IS THE MOST CRUCIAL THING TO HAVE FOR US WHO LIVE IN SUCH A DOMESTICATED WORLD!
BUT THAT'S JUST TOO SELF-CONGRATULATORY
IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A BIG CIRCLE-JERK.
WELL... I WANT TO SEE IT
AS LONG AS THERE'S A MEANING TO IT EVEN A MASTURBATORY WORK CAN BE WORTHWHILE.


WELL THEN,
WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL THAT COMMITS SUICIDE IN YOUR STORY?
HOW REALISTIC IS THIS?
AREN'T YOU ACTUALLY DRAWING A LIE HERE, DESPITE WHAT YOU JUST SAID?

THEN IF I WERE TO COMMIT SUICIDE RIGHT HERE AND NOW,
WOULD THAT BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE OF MY MANGA?

UHH, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE OFF-TOPIC HERE.
WHY DON'T WE GET BACK ON TRACK?
FOR A MANGA,
BEING INTERESTING SHOULD BE THE FIRST AND FOREMOST PRIORITY.
BECAUSE WE LIVE IN SUCH A TOUGH WORLD, THE READERS WANT SOMETHING CHEERFUL AND SIMPLE TO EASILY LATCH ONTO.
THAT'S JUST IDIOTIC...
SUCH SHALLOW EMOTIONS EVOKED BY THOSE STORIES WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!
WHAT PEOPLE NEED IS A MORE TANGIBLE SENSE OF VALUES WITH WHICH TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE!
EVEN IF THAT CAUSED OTHERS TO THINK OF YOU AS WARPED, AS LONG AS YOU CAN REMAIN TRUE TO YOURSELF UNTIL THE MOMENT YOU DIE,
THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVE TRUE DIGNITY IS!
— I'M AFRAID STATING SUCH SELF-ASSURED FACTS THESE DAYS,
WILL ONLY ALIENATE THE READERS
WHY DON'T WE CALM DOWN FOR A MOMENT, MS. NANJOU?
YOU SEEM AWFULLY HIGH-STRUNG AT THE MOMENT

JUST WHO IS IT YOU'RE FIGHTING?
ME?
THE READERS?
OR PERHAPS SOCIETY?
WHATEVER THE CASE, I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO SET ASIDE YOUR PERSONAL ATTACHMENTS FOR THE TIME BEING.


IF YOU START COMING AT ME WITH SUCH INCOMPLETE IDEOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS, I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHERE TO BEGIN

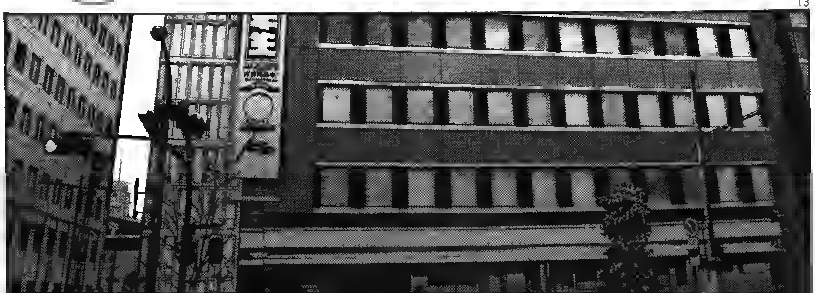
ALTHOUGH I WON'T SAY THAT EXPRESSING SUCH PERSONAL FEELINGS IN A WORK IS NECESSARILY A BAD THING,
IN ANY CASE,
I'LL SUBMIT YOUR WORK TO THE NEWCOMER AWARD POOL FOR THE TIME BEING
SO PLEASE TRY TO COMMUNICATE A CLEARER MESSAGE NEXT TIME.
I WILL SAY THIS
THERE'S NOT AS MANY PEOPLE AS YOU THINK IN THIS WORLD,
WHO WOULD TAKE AN INTEREST IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.

CAN I GET THAT CHANGED TO "I'D LIKE TO PUT MY NOSE RIGHT ON HER PUSSY AND TAKE A DEEP WHIFF."
THE LINE "I WANT TO SMELL HER PUSSY."
YES PAGE 16 PANEL 3.

EXCUSE ME,
I HAVE TO GO TO THE WASHROOM,
AND CHANGE MY TAMPON!

YOU GOING OUT WITH HER?
SO...
WHOO, SHE USED TO BE A LITTLE CALMER..

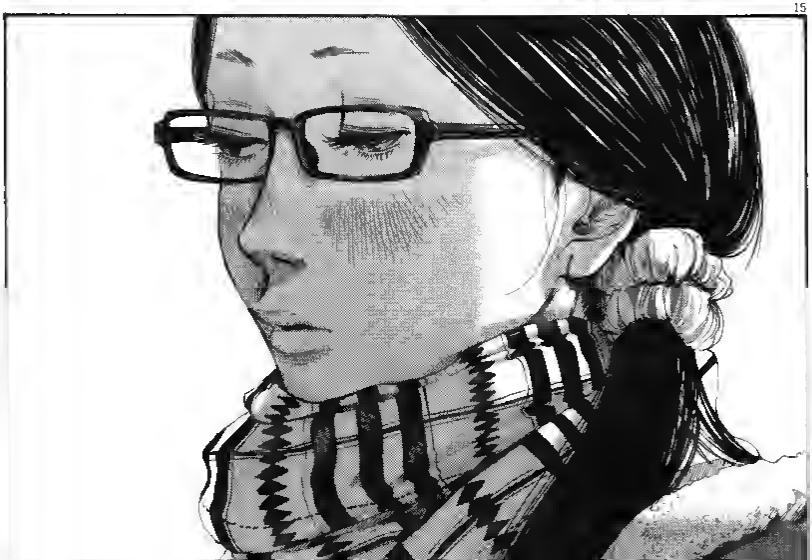
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I CARE EITHER WAY.
AH, IS THAT SO..



WHY DON'T WE GRAB A BITE BEFORE WE HEAD HOME?

NABE WOULD BE NICE...
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOME MOTSU NABE!?
IT'LL BE MY TREAT!

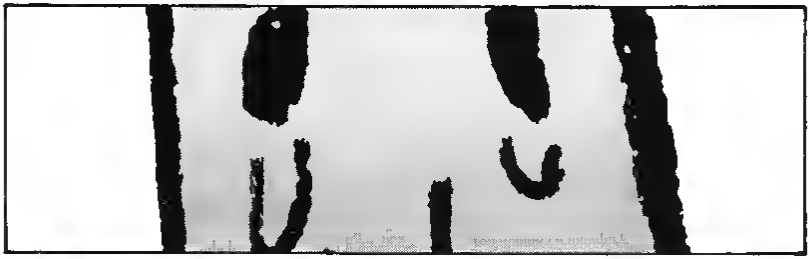
"IT'LL BE ALRIGHT SINCE YOU'RE A GENIUS, SACHI."



ARRGGHHH!

UNI

JUST...
SHUT UP FOR A MOMENT.



I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP TRYING.
NO OTHER CHOICE...

ゴトン
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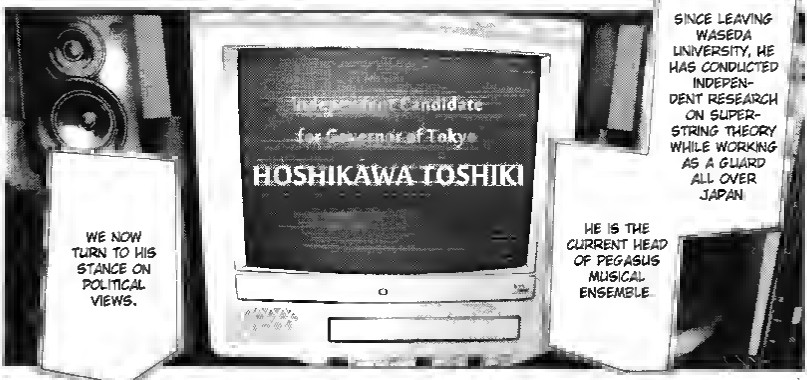
Chapter 92

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF TOKYO, HOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI. AGE 38.


Independent Candidate
for Governor of Tokyo
HOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI
WE NOW TURN TO HIS STANCE ON POLITICAL VIEWS.
HE IS THE CURRENT HEAD OF PEGASUS MUSICAL ENSEMBLE
SINCE LEAVING WASEDA UNIVERSITY, HE HAS CONDUCTED INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON SUPER-STRING THEORY WHILE WORKING AS A GUARD ALL OVER JAPAN

HOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI

東京都小金井市 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

HELLO, EVERYONE!
I AM PEGASUS
東京都小金井市 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

2

LET ME MAKE A STATE-MENT.
ONE APPLICATION OF MY RESEARCH ON SUPERSTRING THEORY HAS ALLOWED ME TO TOUCH THE FUTURE.
ON JULY THE 7TH OF THIS YEAR, THE EARTH WILL GO "KABLAM!" AND MEET ITS END.
東京都小金井市 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

AND WHY IS THAT, YOU ASK?
TO ILLUSTRATE WITH AN EXAMPLE FOR THE SAKE OF CONVENIENCE, IT IS THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF A FALLING DARUMA DOLL WITH A POPPING-EYEBALL.
IN SHORT, IT IS A "PROMISED DESPAIR."
AND AS SUCH, IT IS INEVITABLE.
東京都知事候補 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

THAT IS WHY I HAVE PREPARED FOR A LONG, LONG TIME FOR THIS...
I HAVE GATHERED MANY COMRADES TO HELP ME ON THIS QUEST TO AVOID THE COMING DESPAIR.
AND OUR PREPARATIONS ARE PROGRESSING ALONG AS I SPEAK.
I SHALL SAVE THIS WORLD.
東京都知事候補 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

GOOD...
VIBRATIONS!
東京都知事候補 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

I WAS UNSURE OVER WHETHER OR NOT THIS WORLD HAD ENOUGH VALUE TO BE WORTH SAVING IN THE FIRST PLACE...
HOWEVER, I HAD BEEN IN A QUANDARY FOR QUITE SOME TIME...
東京都出身 在住 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

SOMETHING WAS STILL LACKING, AND LIKE A FAINT PIECE OF STRING WRAPPING AROUND OUR NECKS, IT HAS BEEN SUFFOCATING US.
I'M SURE MANY OF YOU LOVERS HAVE ALSO FELT THE STAGNATION OF OUR WORLD DURING THESE PAST 10 YEARS.
A STATE AS DARK AS THE END OF THE WORLD
DESPITE THE SURPLUS OF MATERIAL WEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY INCREASINGLY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER,
東京都出身 在住 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

BUT I'VE COME TO THINK THUS
BUT MERELY REBALANCING ITSELF TO ITS IDEAL STATE.
THE WORLD IS NOT COMING TO AN END,
東京都出身 在住 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

IS THIS NOT A FACT TO REJOICE UPON?
CONTRATULA-TIONS, EVERYONE!
WHETHER IN SCIENCE OR RELIGION, OUR SOCIETY HAS COME TO A PEAK AT THIS CURRENT TIME.
..IN OTHER WORDS, THE WORLD HAS BECOME RIPE.
東京都渋谷区 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

DOES YOUR TUMMY HURT?
OH. .? WHY THE SAD FACE?
WHY...?
東京都渋谷区 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

YOU ARE STILL MUCH TOO SELFISH FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
...WELL THAT'S BECAUSE,
東京都渋谷区 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

I WILL ACCEPT YOU IN ALL YOUR SELFISH-NESS!
EVEN SO...!
東京都出身 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

THAT'S AMORE.
WHY?
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN BEAR.
東京都出身 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

東京都出身 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

AND SO I HAVE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD!
I PAINSTAKINGLY PONDERED WHILE SLEEPING!
BUT DESPITE MY EFFORTS, I WAS ONLY ABLE TO REACH ONE CONCLUSION
東京都知事候補 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE,
THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO THROW ASIDE EVERYTHING AND START ANEW
東京都知事候補 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

AND SO,
IF I WERE TO BECOME THE GOVERNOR OF TOKYO...
東京都知事候補 無所属
ほしかわ

I SHALL FREE ALL OF TOKYO!
FREE FROM RULES AND REGULATIONS,
SO THAT WE MAY CREATE A BRAND NEW WORLD TOGETHER!
選挙
スター掲示場
選挙管理委員会
この掲示場の前には
駐車
駐輪
ご遠慮ください
豊野さとし
白石みきお
茂木修輔
小鷲秋之
中山久太郎
やまざき敏三
2 知事
25 知事
12 知事
25 区議
22 区議
21 区議

I PERSONALLY WITNESSED YOUR KINDNESS, GOOD-WILL, UPSTANDING MORALS,
AND UNITY...!
FROM THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE TRAGEDY,

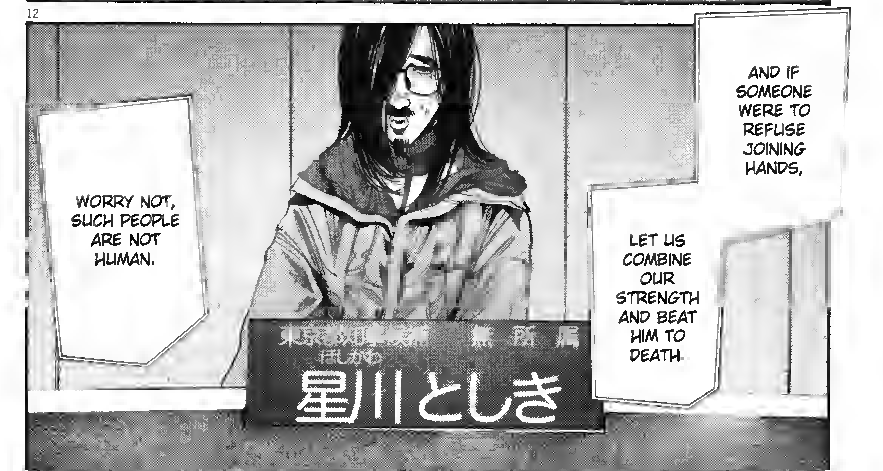
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROUD OF YOURSELVES!
YOU ARE ALL GOOD, VIRTUOUS PEOPLE!
I WAS EVER SO MOVED!
TEARS GUSHED OUT FROM MY EYES!

NAY, I'M CONVINCED THAT NO ONE OTHER THAN YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU PEOPLE CAN SURELY DO IT!

WE ALL WANT TO SEE A WORLD OF TRUE HAPPINESS AND EQUALITY, DON'T WE..?
I'M SURE WE CAN OVERCOME RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AND COME TO AN UNDER-STANDING...
IF SO, THEN THROW AWAY YOUR CLOTHES!
AND CHANGE INTO PEGASUS T-SHIRTS!!!
FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND COUPLES! CAST ASIDE SUCH NOTIONS OF NARROW GROUPINGS OF HUMANITY!
CAST ASIDE YOUR HOMES, WEALTH, JOBS, AND COME GATHER AT TOCHOMAE AS A PURE INDIVIDUAL!
THERE, WE SHALL SING THE SONG OF PRAISE UNDER MY LEAD!

YOU ARE ALL ALLOWED TO LIVE!
ADULTS, CHILDREN, AND THE ELDERLY!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU'RE AN OTAKU, DELINQUENT, LOLICON, OR EVEN A MURDERER!
YOU ARE ALL ALLOWED TO LIVE!
東京都出身 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

AND TALK ABOUT OUR FUTURE...
LET US ALL JOIN OUR HANDS,
東京都出身 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき


WORRY NOT, SUCH PEOPLE ARE NOT HUMAN.
AND IF SOMEONE WERE TO REFUSE JOINING HANDS,
LET US COMBINE OUR STRENGTH AND BEAT HIM TO DEATH.
東京都出身 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

CAST ASID YOUR INDI-VIDUALITY,
SO THAT WE MAY BECOME ONE AND PROGRESS TO THE NEXT STAGE!
LET US KISS,
AND TAKE TURNS HAVING PASSIONATE SEX!
東京都出身 男 所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

YOU YOUR-SELVES CAN TURN THIS INTO REALITY WITH YOUR DECISIONS!
WELL...? DOES IT EXCITE YOU?
THIS IS NO RELIGION,
NOR IS THIS MY SELF-INTOXICATION TALKING...
東京都出身 男 所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

東京都出身 男 所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

MY-
MY-
MY CHEST!
IT'S SWELLING WITH EXCITE-MENT!
東京都港区 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

東京都港区 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

IF YOU VOTE FOR ME,
I SHALL GLADLY FIGHT OFF THE "PROMISED DESPAIR"...
東京都港区 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

YOU ARE SPLENDID!
YOU ARE HIP!
LOVERS
YOU CAN DO THIS!
東京都知事 無所属
星川としき

FROM THE COSMOPOLITAN SKY-CITY OF TOKYO, LET US WITNESS THE BIRTH OF A NEW AGE..
WE SHALL CREATE A NEW WORLD...
東京都知事 無所属
星川としき

VIBRATIONS ...
GOOD...
東京都知事 無所属
星川としき

東京都八王子市 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

東京都八王子市 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

東京都八王子市 無所属
ほしかわ
星川としき

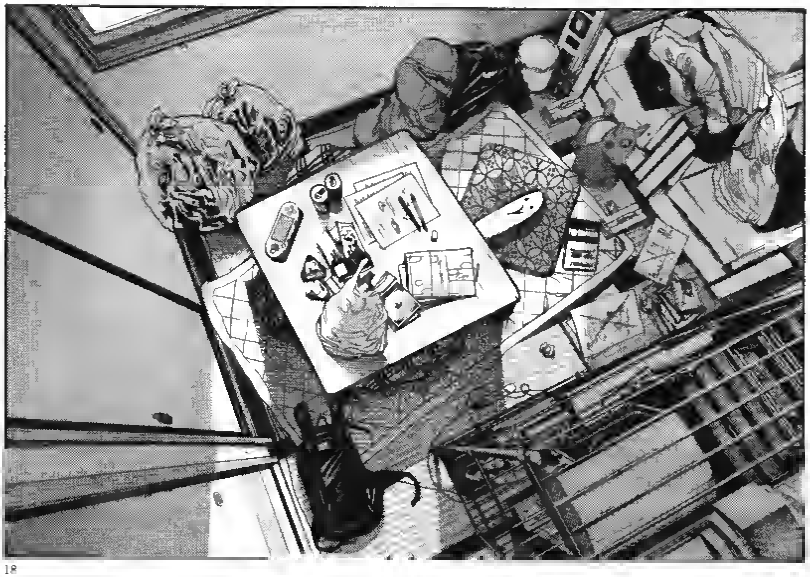
Independent Candidate

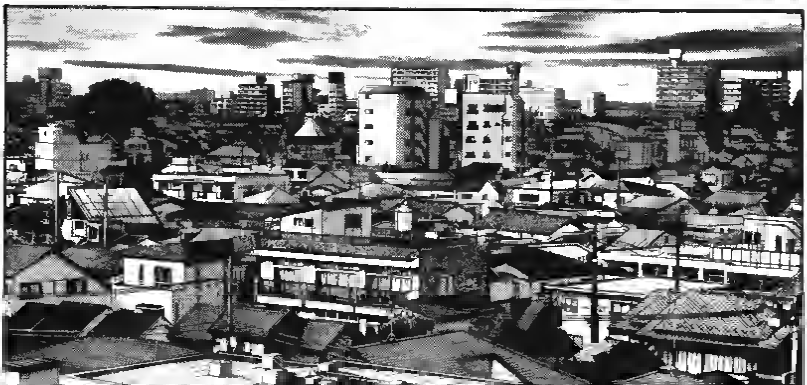
for Governor of Tokyo

OSHIKAWA TOSHIKI

AND THAT CONCLUDES THE BROADCAST FOR HOSHIKAWA TOSHIKI'S STATEMENT.

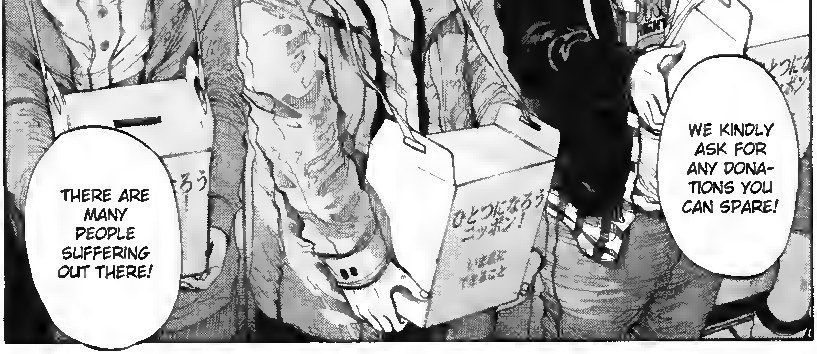
東京地検事件 無所属
星川としき





KIRI

第93話


THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE SUFFERING OUT THERE!
WE KINDLY ASK FOR ANY DONATIONS YOU CAN SPARE!

WE KINDLY ASK FOR ANY DONATIONS YOU CAN SPARE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH SIR!
BE GENEROUS AND GIVE!

DEIDO

スナック
幾じまん
ランチはじめました♥
'SUP!
HOW YOU GALS DOING?
PEEENIS!
HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THE SERIOUS LOOKS?

WHY DON'T WE LEAVE NANJOU HERE AND GO TO THE DISASTER AREA TO HELP ALL THOSE POOR PEOPLE!?
MIMURA!
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
SORRY, MY UNIVERSITY TERM BEGINS NEXT WEEK...
UHH...
JUST THIS FATASS OVER HERE GOING ON AND ON ABOUT HOW SHE CAN'T EAT WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE SUFFERING OUT THERE

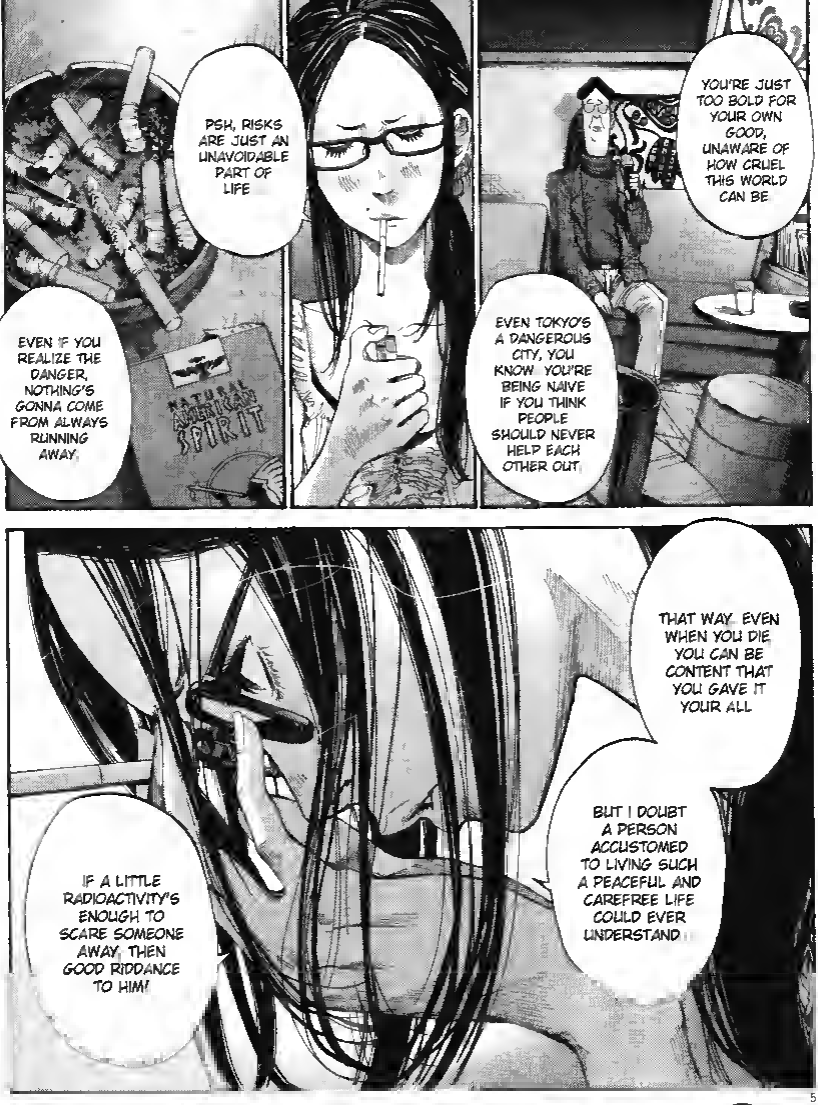
WASN'T IT JUST LAST MONTH WHEN YOU WERE GOING ON ABOUT WANTING TO BE REBORN AS A SIAMESE CAT IN YOUR NEXT LIFE OR WHATEVER!?
WELL IF YOU WANNA BE REBORN SO BADLY, THEN JUST KILL YOURSELF ALREADY! I WON'T STOP YOU!
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD!
WHEN THE HELL DID YOU GET ALL SERIOUS ON MY ASS!?

ANYONE WHO TRIES TO FORCE THAT SICKENINGLY EASY-GOING GENEROUS SPIRIT OUT OF OTHERS IS NOTHING BUT AN ANNOYING PRICK.
AND I'M GONNA CONTINUE TO WORK ONLY FOR MYSELF AS I'VE ALWAYS DONE
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING MY STANCE ON THIS ISSUE.

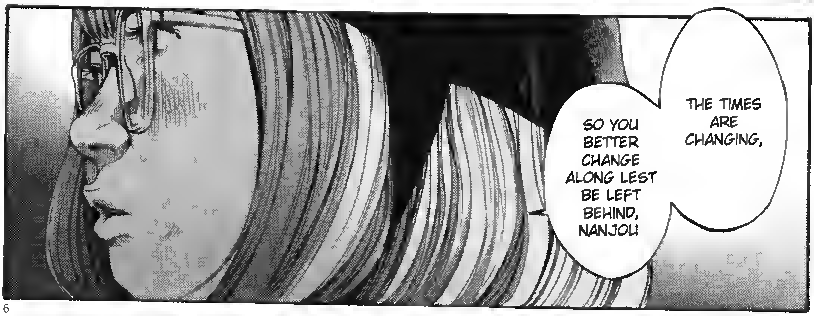
WELL I AM SHOCKED!
DON'T YOU HAVE AN OUNCE OF COMPASSION IN YOUR HEART!?
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU WERE SUCH A SELFISH BRUTE.

OH PLEASE, AS IF YOU'RE ACTING PURELY FROM THE GOODNESS OF YOUR HEART!
YOU JUST WANT TO FEEL LESS GUILTY ABOUT LOUNGING ON YOUR FAT ASS EVERYDAY AS YOU LIVE YOUR COMFORTABLE LIFE!
OR DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT GUILT-TRIPPING PEOPLE JUST BY STANDING OUT ON THE SIDEWALK WITH A DONATION BOX IS GOOD THING!?
YOU BETTER THINK REAL HARD ABOUT WHICH ONE OF US IS THE SANE ONE HERE!

YOU'RE JUST ACTING TOUGH AS ALWAYS!
OH, COME ON NOW, GIRLS...
I MAY NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO, BUT MY ABS SAY THAT BOTH OF YOU SHOULD JUST CALM DOWN FOR A MOMENT...
SO WHAT!?


PSH, RISKS ARE JUST AN UNAVOIDABLE PART OF LIFE
YOU'RE JUST TOO BOLD FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, UNAWARE OF HOW CRUEL THIS WORLD CAN BE
EVEN IF YOU REALIZE THE DANGER, NOTHING'S GONNA COME FROM ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY.
EVEN TOKYO'S A DANGEROUS CITY, YOU KNOW. YOU'RE BEING NAIVE IF YOU THINK PEOPLE SHOULD NEVER HELP EACH OTHER OUT.
NATURAL AMERICAN SPIRIT
THAT WAY, EVEN WHEN YOU DIE YOU CAN BE CONTENT THAT YOU GAVE IT YOUR ALL.
BUT I DOUBT A PERSON ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING SUCH A PEACEFUL AND CAREFREE LIFE COULD EVER UNDERSTAND.
IF A LITTLE RADIOACTIVITY'S ENOUGH TO SCARE SOMEONE AWAY, THEN GOOD RIDDANCE TO HIM!
HMPH!
YOU TALK BIG ABOUT WORKING HARD,
BUT EVEN *YOU'VE* MADE NO PROGRESS ON YOUR MANGA AFTER BEING REJECTED BY THE EDITOR!

YOU AND ONODERA ARE AT YOUR WITS ENDS, AREN'T YOU?
IT'S NOT SURPRISING CONSIDERING THE STORY.
JUST WHAT MEANING IS THERE TO A MANGA ABOUT A BORING EVERYDAY LIFE?


THE TIMES ARE CHANGING,
SO YOU BETTER CHANGE ALONG LEST BE LEFT BEHIND, NANJOU!

THIS MUCH AIN'T NEARLY ENOUGH TO CHANGE ANY!
AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH THE WORLD CHANGES,
ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT YOU'LL NEVER CHANGE!
REMEMBER THESE WORDS WHILE YOU'RE CHOWING DOWN ON FOOD AGAIN, ALL THE WHILE OBLIVIOUS TO OTHERS' SUFFERING!

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
THAT'S ENOUGH, LADIES.
SHUT UP, YOU FRIGID BITCH!
OH, SO YOU WANNA START SOMETHING? COME AT ME, I'LL MAKE YOU SQUEAL LIKE THE LIL' PIGGIE YOU ARE
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
SINCE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WILL BE IN FULL BLOOM SOON,
WHY DON'T WE MAKE UP AND GO FLOWER VIEWING TOGETHER?

AH WHAT A LOVELY PACK OF MEAT YOU'VE GOT, MA'AM
VERY PLUMP AND JUICY TOP-GRADE
AND WHAT A BEAUTIFULLY WELL-CRAFTED ARTIFICIAL FACE YOU HAVE!
HOW MODERN AND ARTISTIC!
GOOD, GOOD, JUST LIKE THAT.

WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN OPINIONS AND PHILOSO-PHIES,
AND NEITHER IS RIGHT NOR WRONG.
AS THEY SAY, VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE.
SO WHY DON'T WE JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT?

HOW'S ONODERA DOING BY THE WAY?

NO...

WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED MUCH AS OF LATE...

HE'S PROBABLY SITTING HOME ALONE AND CRYING TO HIMSELF AS USUAL...

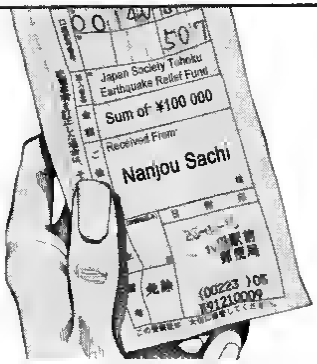
ARE YOU TWO NOT TOGETHER TODAY?

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR AWHILE NOW...

WHY AREN'T THE TWO OF YOU PROPERLY DATING?

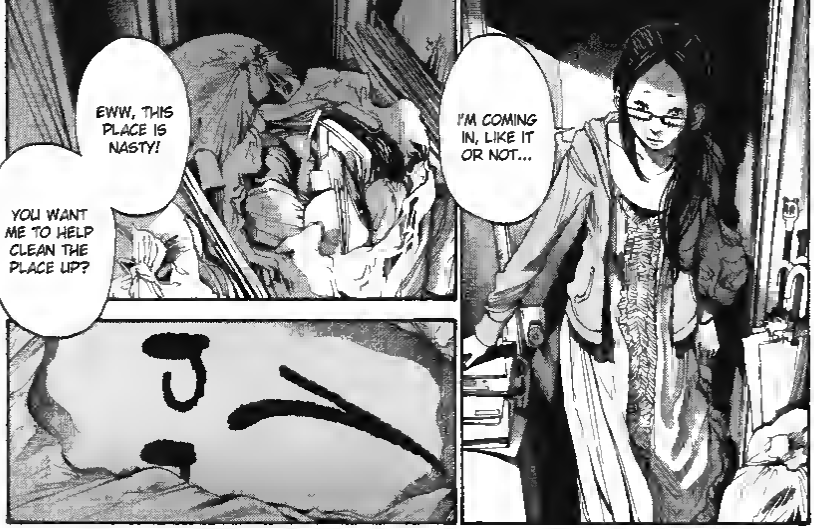
WHO KNOWS...

THINK WHATEVER YOU WANT

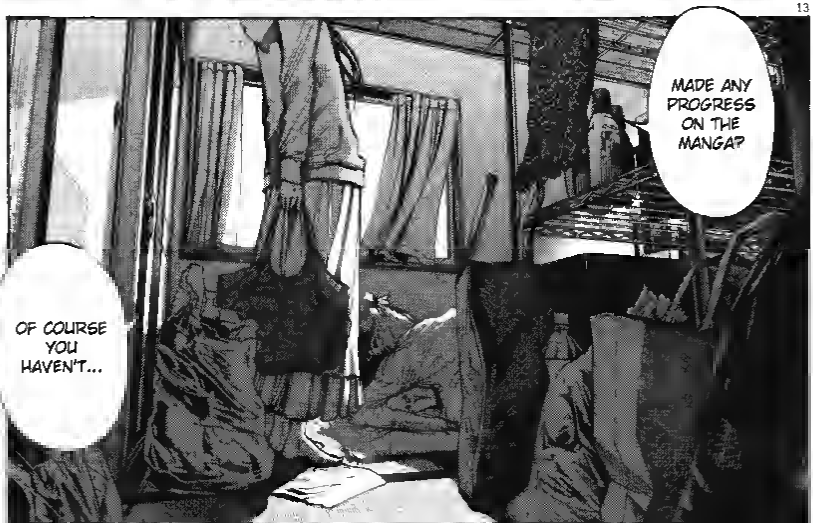


Fukushima II Nuclear Reactor
Coolant Failure

HELLOOO?
PUNPUN?


I'M COMING IN, LIKE IT OR NOT...
EWW, THIS PLACE IS NASTY!
YOU WANT ME TO HELP CLEAN THE PLACE UP?

PUNPUN,
YOU TOO...?


MADE ANY PROGRESS ON THE MANGA?
OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T...

I PRETTY MUCH KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
SO LET ME SAY THIS FIRST.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO RUSH.
IF YOU WANT TO CRY, THEN IT'S PERFECTLY FINE TO CRY UNTIL YOUR EYES DRY OUT.

AS LONG AS YOU THINK AND MOVE ALONG AFTERWARDS,
I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE AND SUPPORT YOU.

"I'VE BEEN THINKING NON-STOP FOR THE PAST FEW WEEKS. JUST WHY IS IT THAT I'M SO USELESS...?"

I'M SURE A DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU'LL FIND YOUR WORTH.
IT'S FINE EVEN IF YOU ARE USELESS RIGHT NOW,
AS LONG AS YOU KEEP LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE.

"NOT ONLY THAT, I CAN'T HELP BUT GET THE FEELING THAT I'M JUST DRAGGING YOU DOWN, SACHI..."

"I GUESS IN THE END, I'M JUST YOUR PET..."

IF I FELT LIKE IT, I COULD EASILY DRAW AN AWARD-WINNING PRETENTIOUS MANGA BY MYSELF
THOSE TEARS WON'T WORK ON ME, YOU KNOW...

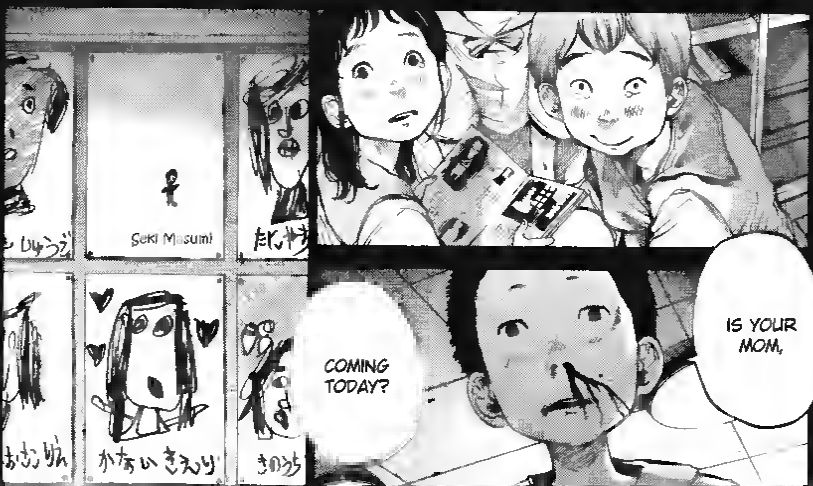
I GUESS TALKING'S A WASTE OF TIME...
TO BOTH HIM AND EVERYONE ELSE...
GIGA
ホンキ・ホーテ

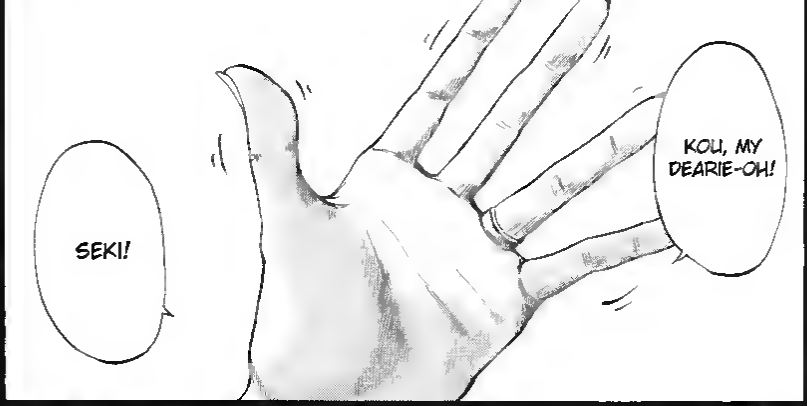
中町商店街

Chapter 94

AGHHH HHHHH HHHH!
TEACHER!

おかあさんありがとう
HEY, SHIMIZU.

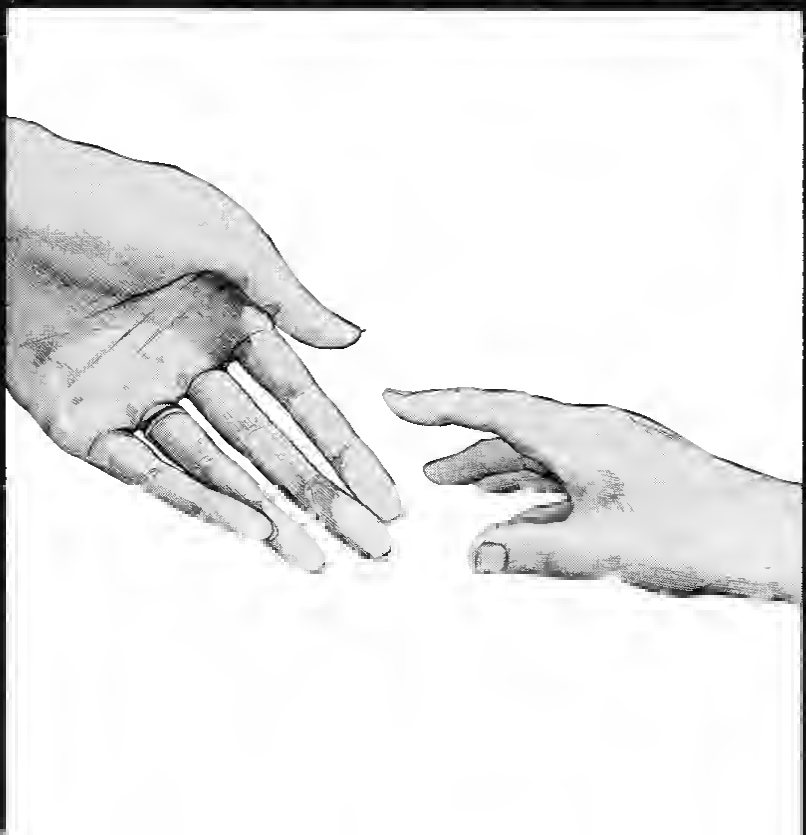

Seki Mitsumi
IS YOUR MOM,
COMING TODAY?


KOU, MY DEARIE-OH!
SEKI!

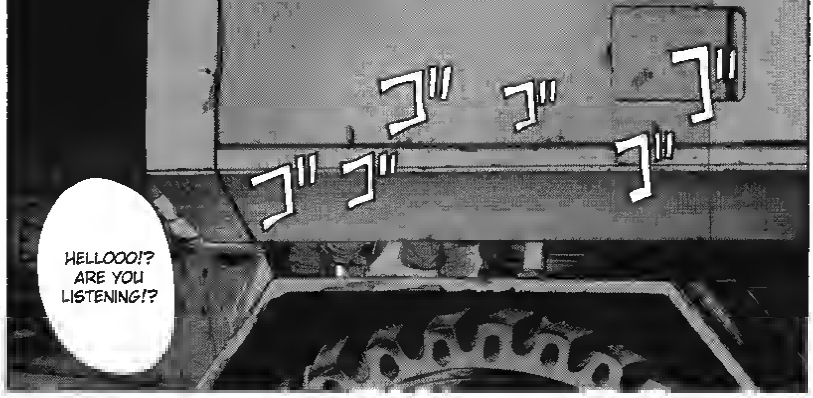
IS SEKI'S MOTHER-
NO, I'M AFRAID SHE'S NOT HERE AGAIN DUE TO WORK...
IT'S ALRIGHT, I'LL TAKE SEKI HOME AS USUAL.
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT FORCING HIM ONTO YOU EVERYDAY, MRS. SHIMIZU...

BYE-BYE!
GOODBYE, CHILDREN. SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW.
WHY DON'T YOU TWO KIDS SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR TEACHER NOW?

LISTEN UP, KOU.
SEKI'S MOMMY IS VERY BUSY WITH WORK SO YOU BE FRIENDLY WITH HIM, YOU HEAR?
COME ALONG, SEKI. NO NEED TO BE SHY.
LET'S ALL JOIN HANDS TOGETHER, 'KAY?
AH-



HEY.
I SAID HEY!



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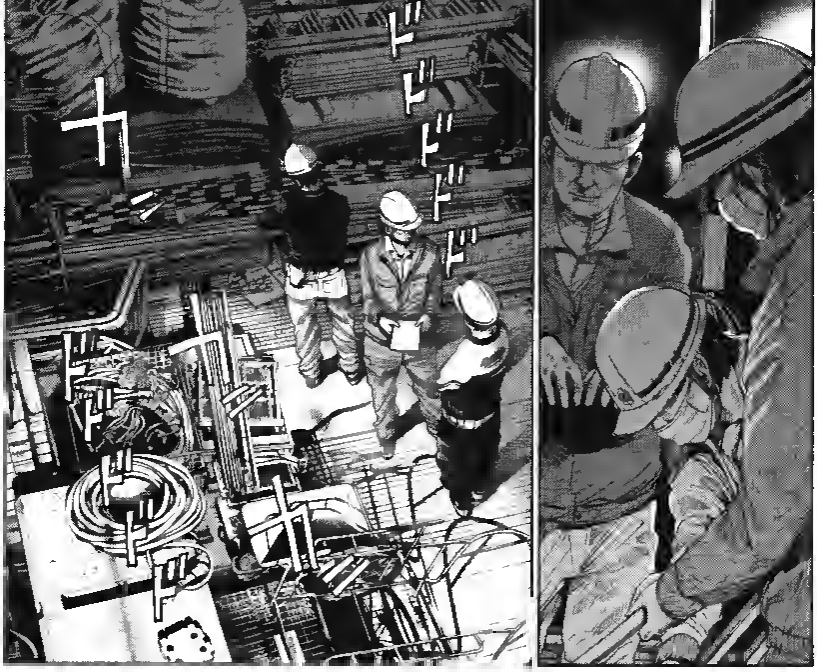
DAMN... JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU THAT EVEN RUNDOWN STRIP JOINTS SHOULDN'T BE UNDERESTIMATED
"HARD WORK!"
AN ALTERNATE SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR WOMEN!* HA! I WAS FLOORED WHEN SHE SAID THAT!

*THE RADICALS THAT MAKE UP THE KANJI FOR "HARD WORK" ARE WOMAN, ETERNITY, AND STRENGTH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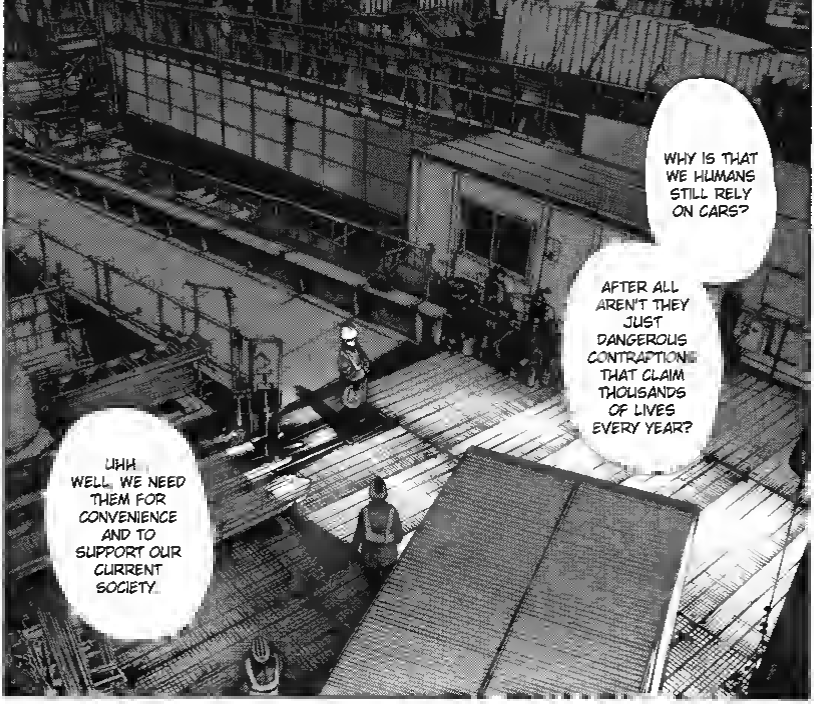

WHY IS THAT WE HUMANS STILL RELY ON CARS?
AFTER ALL AREN'T THEY JUST DANGEROUS CONTRAPTIONS THAT CLAIM THOUSANDS OF LIVES EVERY YEAR?
UHH... WELL, WE NEED THEM FOR CONVENIENCE AND TO SUPPORT OUR CURRENT SOCIETY.

AH SO IS IT A NECESSARY EVIL THEN?
LIKE WAR OR NUCLEAR ENERGY. IT SUPPORTS AN IRREPLACEABLE ASPECT OF SOCIETY IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?
THE SHIT? I SAID SOMETHING *INTERESTING*, MAN. GO FUCK YOURSELF

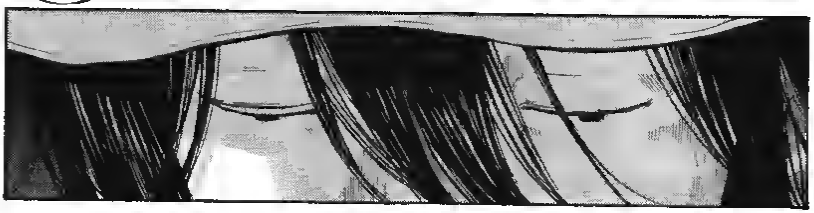
THEN HOW ABOUT I ASK YOU A QUESTION.

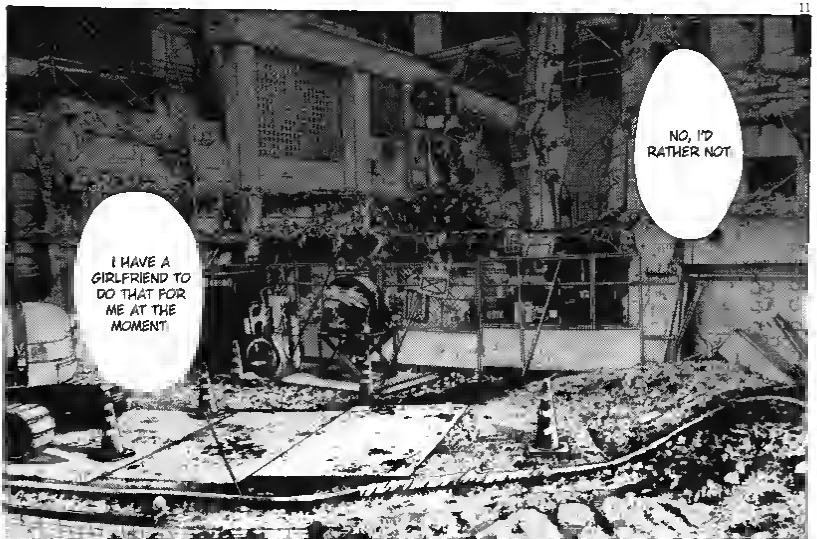
YOU'RE WALKING WITH YOUR FRIEND AND HIS MOTHER,
WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, YOU SPOT A TRUCK WITH A DRIVER SNOOZING AT THE WHEELS HEADED RIGHT FOR THE THREE OF YOU
HOWEVER, YOU CAN ONLY REACT FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE ONE PERSON. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN SUCH A SITUATION?
WELL...
I GUESS IT'D BE THE FRIEND, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW 'BOUT THAT...
OH, I GOT IT! YOU RUN AND CHOOSE TO SAVE YOURSELF!
DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD CHOICE EITHER. YOU'D HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE GUILT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
WELL
THERE'S NO REAL *RIGHT* ANSWER
AGH! YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WITH THESE TYPES OF QUESTIONS UNLESS IT ACTUALLY HAPPENS TO YOU!
MUH.
SERIOUSLY GO FUCK YOURSELF WITH THAT QUESTION

IS LIFE ANY FUN FOR YOU?
WHAT KIND OF CHILDHOOD DID YOU HAVE?
BUT I HAVE TO SAY...
YOU'RE A PRETTY CYNICAL KID FOR YOUR AGE.
OH, A NORMAL ONE.
A NORMAL ONE WITH NORMAL FAILURES AND NORMAL MISTAKES.
YOUR PARENTS?
MY DAD FAILED AT HIS BUSINESS ONCE AND NOW MY PARENTS MAKE ENDS MEET WITH WHAT LITTLE MONEY THEY HAVE
IN THEIR FREE TIME THEY LIKE TO WATCH TV WHILE GRUMBLING ENDLESSLY OR WASTE MONEY PLAYING PACHINKO
VAIN. PREJUDICED AND IGNORANT. THEY'RE A SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE ARCHETYPICAL DREGS OF SOCIETY.
NEXT TIME THERE'S A BIG EARTHQUAKE, I'LL USE IT AS MY CHANCE TO KILL THEM.
WHOA, WHOA. THAT'S ENOUGH
I GOT IT!
JUST LET THE TRUCK HIT ALL 3 OF YOU THAT WAY, NONE OF YOU WOULD FEEL GUILTY OR SAD!

WHO KNOWS MAYBE HE WON'T. IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YOU WILL?
ALRIGHT, I GUESS I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT, THEN

MAAAN!
SERIOUSLY GO FUCK YOURSELF...!
SO THERE'S NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT WHATEVER CHOICE ONE MAKES
BUT GOING BACK TO THE QUESTION, AS LONG AS EACH OPTION SAVES THE SAME AMOUNT OF LIVES, THERE'S NO REAL RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER.




NO, I'D RATHER NOT.
I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND TO DO THAT FOR ME AT THE MOMENT.

I'M COMING!
AHN!
YES!

YOU WORKING AGAIN TOMORROW?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF WORKING SO MUCH IF YOU DON'T EVEN EVER SPEND THE MONEY YOU MAKE?
WELL AREN'T YOU THE BUSY BEE.
YEAH, TOMORROW'S MY RECYCLING JOB
IT'S RELAXING YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE WHEN YOU'RE DOING MANUAL LABOUR.

YOU KNOW, I'M FREE ALL DAY TOMORROW...
BUT I AM THINKING OF QUITTING MY CONSTRUC-TION JOB...
WELL, I'M NOT. AND BESIDES, SHIMIZU'S HELPING ME OUT TOMORROW TOO.
IT'S A LITTLE SCARY WITH ALL THE TRUCKS AND HEAVY MACHINERY DRIVING BY.
SHIMIZU THIS, SHIMIZU THAT...
WHAT'RE YOU, GAY?
YOU SAY THIS AFTER I JUST MADE YOU COME HOW MANY TIMES?
13
HEY...
WHY'RE YOU EVEN GOING OUT WITH ME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL THAT DOESN'T SMOKE.
ANSWER SERIOUSLY!

W...

WHERE'S
MOMMY?

NGHH!
SEKI,
WHERE'S MOMMY?
DON'T LOOK!
D-
P
WHAT, DON'T YOU TRUST ME?
I BELIEVE YOU.
REALLY?
SHE'S RIGHT OVER THERE
SHE'S...
OK!
SHE'S ALIVE AND WELL FOR SURE!
OK...
YOUR MOM'S ALIVE

AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE IN ME.
I'LL BE THERE TO PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO FACE REALITY.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT IN YOUR STEAD...

IS THAT HOW IT IS...?

KOU, MY DEARIE-OH!

ARE YOU TAKING ANY TISSUES ALONG, DEAR?
OH MY!
TAKING EVEN THE BOX? YOU SURE SHOWED YOUR MAMA THIS TIME!

I'M OFF!

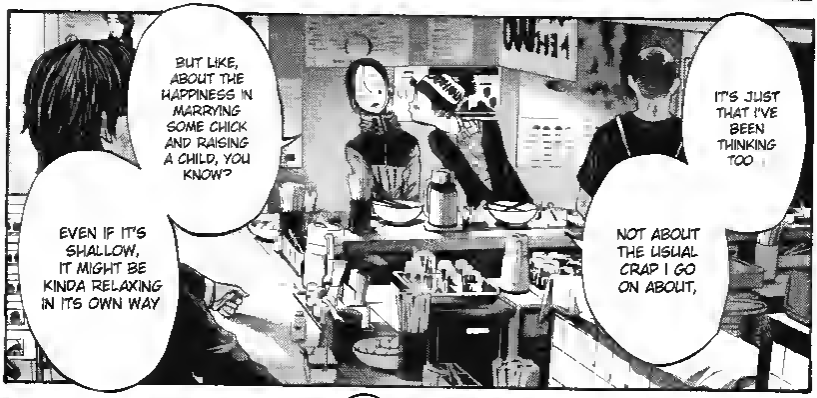
HAVE A GOODY GOO!

JOHAN

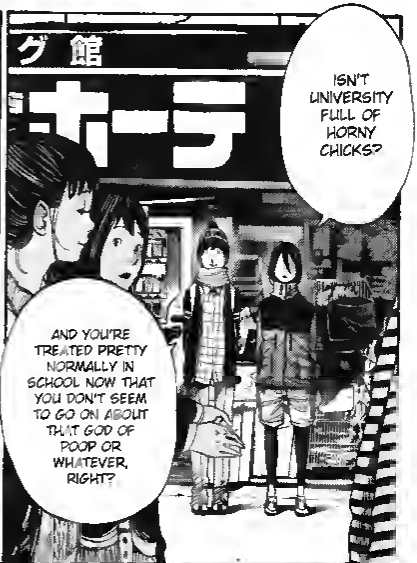
MARINE LIKE
FLOATING

HEY SHIMIZU,
YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING A GIRLFRIEND?

WELL...
I MEAN,
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU *HAVE TO* GET ONE RIGHT NOW OR ANYTHING BUT...


IT'S JUST THAT I'VE BEEN THINKING TOO
NOT ABOUT THE USUAL CRAP I GO ON ABOUT,
BUT LIKE, ABOUT THE HAPPINESS IN MARRYING SOME CHICK AND RAISING A CHILD, YOU KNOW?
EVEN IF IT'S SHALLOW, IT MIGHT BE KINDA RELAXING IN ITS OWN WAY

I GUESS...
RIGHT?


ISN'T UNIVERSITY FULL OF HORNY CHICKS?
AND YOU'RE TREATED PRETTY NORMALLY IN SCHOOL NOW THAT YOU DON'T SEEM TO GO ON ABOUT THAT GOD OF POOP OR WHATEVER, RIGHT?

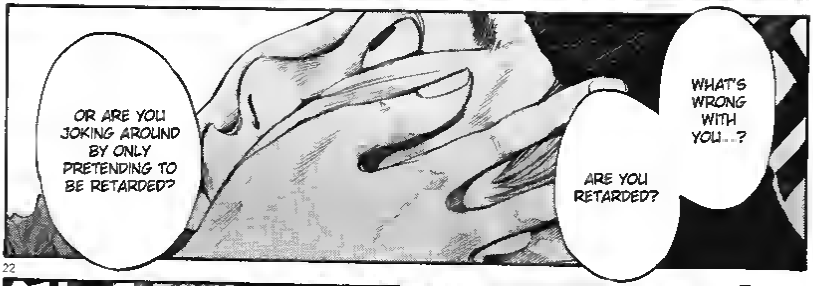
THEN GOOD GETTING A GIRLFRIEND'S A PIECE OF CAKE ! I'LL EVEN HELP YOU!
MAYBE THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT AND NOT NEED ME ALL THE TIME!

BUT...
I DON'T KNOW.
SEEMS LIKE A BIG HASSLE...
AND I DON'T WANNA LEAVE MY MOM ALL ALONE

WHAT... DID YOU...
JUST SAY...?

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?

YOUR MOM'S BEEN DEAD FOR A LONG TIME, DID YOU FORGET!?
SHE WAS IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHEN WE WERE IN KINDER-GARTEN!
YOU LIVE IN A FAMILY OF FOUR WITH YOUR DAD, SISTER, AND GRANDPA!


WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU...?
ARE YOU RETARDED?
OR ARE YOU JOKING AROUND BY ONLY PRETENDING TO BE RETARDED?

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ..
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH ME THAT I'M STUCK WITH SUCH A CRUMMY LIFE
MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S DRAGGING ME DOWN ..

AH-
SORRY,
I GOT A CALL FROM MY BOSS
AM I...
A BOTHER?
HELLO? SEKI SPEAKING
...YES, I CAN WORK RIGHT NOW.
ALRIGHT. I'LL HEAD OVER THERE RIGHT AWAY
MOS HEALTH CENTER...?

SHIMIZU,
LET'S GO.

GOOD
VIBRATIONS.

Chapter 95

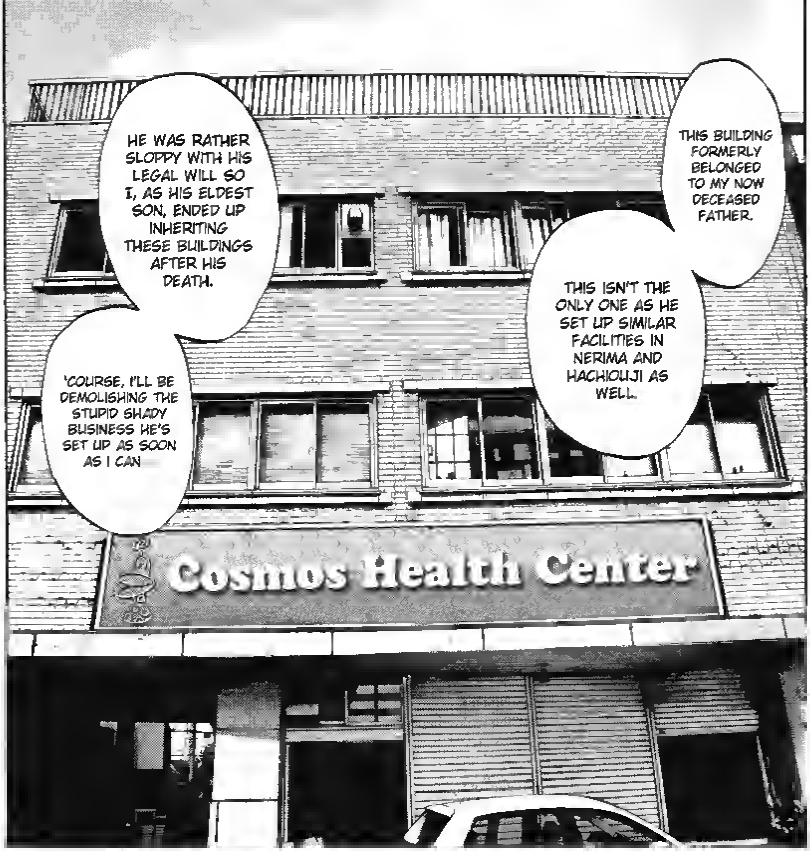
WE, THE MAGICAL WARRIORS POSSESSING THE STABILITY OF A REGULAR TETRAHEDRON, CAN RETUNE THE DISSONANCE OF THE AKASHIK RECORDS.
SO WHY DO YOU REJECT US, MY LOVERS.
ARE YOU NOT MY CHOSEN ONES...?

SOME-WHERE IN THIS FESTIVAL,
THE ABSOLUTE DARK SPOT IS LURKING AROUND.

SO, UMM...
~5901
EVERYTHING IN THIS BUILDING?

...YES, EVERY-THING
WELL, UHH, THIS IS QUITE A LOT OF STUFF... OUR COMPANY USUALLY ONLY HANDLES BASIC HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES
BUT I'LL CALL MY BOSS AGAIN TO CONFIRM THE SITUATION

CLEARING OUT THE WHOLE BUILDING IS JUST TOO SUDDEN...
NO, I'M AFRAID YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO.
CAN'T WE TRY TO TALK THINGS OUT ONE MORE TIME...?
AND YOU'VE ALREADY DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE MANY TIMES WITH THE LAWYER.


HE WAS RATHER SLOPPY WITH HIS LEGAL WILL SO I, AS HIS ELDEST SON, ENDED UP INHERITING THESE BUILDINGS AFTER HIS DEATH.
THIS BUILDING FORMERLY BELONGED TO MY NOW DECEASED FATHER.
THIS ISN'T THE ONLY ONE AS HE SET UP SIMILAR FACILITIES IN NERIMA AND HACHIOUJI AS WELL.
'COURSE, I'LL BE DEMOLISHING THE STUPID SHADY BUSINESS HE'S SET UP AS SOON AS I CAN
Cosmos Health Center

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M COMPLETELY UNINVOLVED IN MY FATHER'S SHADY BUSINESS
Hoshikawa Masaki
I STARTED MY OWN BUSINESS BACK IN UNIVERSITY AND NOW I RUN A CELL-PHONE RELATED WEBSITE.
THIS PLACE WAS ORIGINALLY JUST A NORMAL ALTERNATE MEDICINE BUILDING SPECIALIZING IN SEITAI BUT...
WELL HE PROBABLY GOT SCAMMED INTO MAKING THIS "HEALTH CENTER" YOU SEE TODAY. HE EVEN WENT AROUND CALLING HIMSELF "DOCTOR."

B-B-BUT THIS WATER REALLY IS GOOD FOR YOU!
SURE IT IS
BEING IN THE SALES BUSINESS MYSELF, I PERSONALLY FEEL NOTHING BUT DISDAIN FOR MY FATHER FOR SELLING THESE FRAUDULENT PRODUCTS
Cosmos Water
WELL, MAYBE I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO CRITICIZE SINCE I ALSO SELL THINGS WITHOUT ANY INTRINSIC, TANGIBLE VALUE...
AH, EXCUSE ME. I'VE GOT A CALL TO TAKE...

AH-
TOSHIKI.
HELLO?

...JUST FIT!!

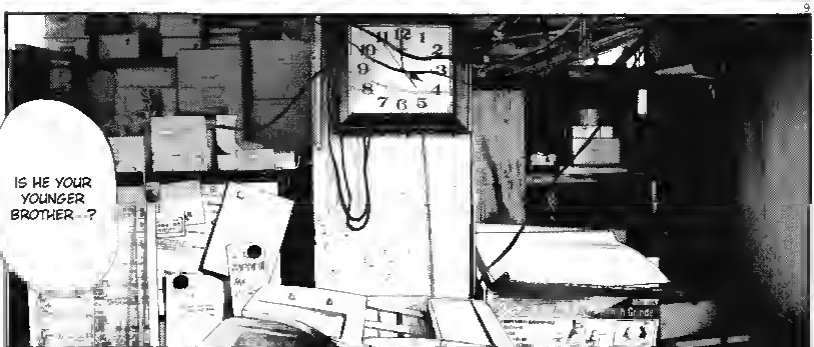
I'M GETTING GOOD VIBES FROM BEING IN UNISON WITH YOUR SYNCOPATIONS...
I'M SURE OUR MEETING TODAY HAS ALREADY BEEN FORETOLD BY THE AKASHIK RECORDS...

YES, OUR OSCILLATIONS ARE CLOSELY BOUND TOGETHER BY 5 DEGREES OF SEPARATION...
DON'T YOU THINK SO AS WELL...?

THEN LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING..
NOSE-PAPER LATERN!
YES, YOU. CAN YOU STILL LOVE THIS WORLD!?

DAD'S NOT AROUND TO SUPPORT YOUR FREE-LOADING LIFESTYLE ANYMORE, UNDERSTAND?
THAT'S ENOUGH TOSHIKI. DON'T SPREAD YOUR NONSENSE TO SOME KID
SO YOU BETTER STOP PLAYING TOKYO GOVERNOR CANDIDATE
EVEN THIS KID IS WORKING HARD OUT IN THE REAL WORLD, UNLIKE YOU

WHAT, SO YOU WEREN'T PLAYING AROUND?
DON'T TELL ME YOU SERIOUSLY THOUGHT YOU COULD GET ELECTED!? WHAT ARE YOU RETARDED!?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW BIG OF A LAUGHINGSTOCK YOU ARE ON THE INTERNET?


IS HE YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER...?

EVEN NOW, I HEAR HE'S GOING AROUND DOING BIZARRE THINGS WITH FOLLOWERS HE PICKED UP.
LUCKILY, I ONLY INHERITED MY FATHER'S ASTUTE SENSE OF BUSINESS AND NOT HIS INSANITY. TOSHIKI AND I MAY BE BROTHERS BUT WE COULDN'T BE MORE UNLIKE
BUT IT'S THAT CRAZINESS OF HIS THAT STRANGELY ALLOWS HIM TO CON OTHERS INTO BELIEVING HIM, JUST LIKE MY LATE-FATHER
UNFORTUNATELY, YES. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT CRAZY BRAIN OF HIS

WELL, BASICALLY WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT AT A MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SAGAMIHARA, A GIGANTIC TRIANGULAR PYRAMID MADE ENTIRELY OF SCHOOL DESKS WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE FIELD GROUND IN A SINGLE NIGHT
THERE WERE OVER 900 DESKS USED AND THE SHAPE OF THE PYRAMID WAS SUCH THAT IT FORMED A PERFECT REGULAR TETRAHEDRON
CAN'T SAY THAT I HAVE...
I GUESS THAT'S EXPECTED SINCE IT PROBABLY HAPPENED LONG BEFORE YOU WERE EVEN BORN
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE "SAGAMIHARA TRIANGLE INCIDENT?"

I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY POINT TO IT THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF GUY HE IS.
BEATS ME...
HMM...
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF DOING THAT...?
NEVERTHELESS, MY BROTHER WAS THE ONE WHO ORCHESTRATED THE WHOLE EVENT AND HE ENDED UP BEING ARRESTED FOR IT.
'COURSE, THE ONES RESPONSIBLE WERE ACTUALLY A HANDFUL OF STUDENTS.

WELL, EVEN IF HE DID HAVE A REASON, IT'S PROBABLY NOT A REASON THAT A SANE PERSON CAN UNDERST. ND.
I REALLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND THAT.

"A REGULAR TETRAHEDRON IS THE MOST STABLE OUT OF ALL REGULAR POLYHEDRONS."
AH, BUT HE DID SAY THIS.

"THE DISSONANCE OF THE OSCILLATIONS CAN NOW BE STABILIZED."
"MANY LIVES CAN BE THUS SAVED FROM THE SECRET DISASTER LOOMING IN THE NEAR FUTURE."

TWO MORE...
WITH JUST TWO MORE PEOPLE, I CAN FIGHT AGAINST THE WICKED DISSONANCE...
THE COMING-FOE WILL BE THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN...
BUT OUR FOES CONTINUE TO BECOME STRONGER AND STRONGER BY THE JUMP FORMULA...

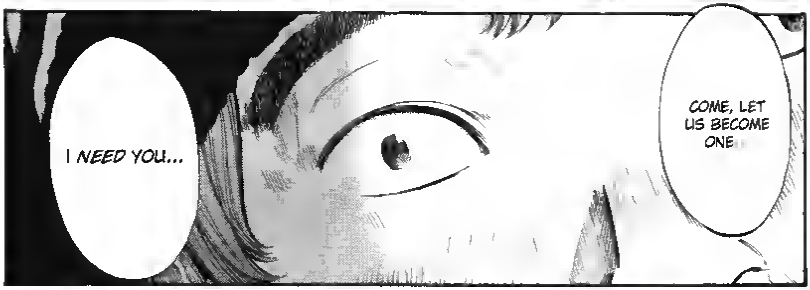
IS THIS WORLD NOT WORTH SAVING AFTER ALL...!?
WHY DO YOU TAKE INACTION AND INVITE DESTRUCTION UNOPPOSED...?
SO WHY, MY LOVERS!?

THE DARK SPOT...
I AM TRULY SADDENED
THE DARK SPOT IS LURKING IN OUR MIDST...
I THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE WERE THE CHOSEN CHILDREN...

IS DRIVING MY LOVERS MAD..
I CAN ONLY THINK THAT THIS DARK SPOT LURKING AMONG US,

DO YOU NOT WANT TO SEE IT...?
A BRAND NEW WORLD OVERFLOWING WITH JOY AND LAUGHTER...
BUT I STILL WISH TO SAVE THIS WORLD.
BECAUSE I LOVE YOU MORE THAN I CAN BEAR!

THE WORLD CAN BECOME SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL!


I NEED YOU...
COME, LET US BECOME ONE.

COMRADES
WE ARE,

MY BOSS SAYS HE'LL COME TOMORROW TO SEE THE PLACE FOR HIMSELF.
AH, IS THAT SO?
BUT IT'S UNLIKELY THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE ALL THE ITEMS HERE.
YES, I'LL TELL HIM THAT.
WELL, ALRIGHT THEN.

I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE MOST OF THIS PLACE BE FOR NOW...
IN ANY CASE, I'M STILL GOING TO GET THIS BUILDING DEMOLISHED SOON ENOUGH.

NO!
ANYTHING BUT THAT!
GOD, YOU PEOPLE ARE ANNOYING!
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN MY FATHER A LAVISH FUNERAL, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT!?

JUST WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LIVE FOR NOW!? YOU'RE KILLING OUR LIVELIHOOD!
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A MURDERER!
OH SHUT UP.

JUST LOOK AT YOURSELVES. YOU'RE STILL AS ENERGETIC AS EVER EVEN AFTER MY FATHER'S DEATH.
HUMANS DON'T DIE THAT EASILY.

WELL, THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T BUY WITH MONEY ALONE
SEI! SEI!
THE HELL ARE YOU DOING NOW, YOU CREEPY HAGS... LOOK, IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH, RAISE THE MONEY TO BUY BACK THE LAND ON YOUR OWN
WHAT, LIKE MEMORIES OR FRIENDSHIP?
KID, I HATE STUPID IDEALISTIC TALK LIKE THAT.

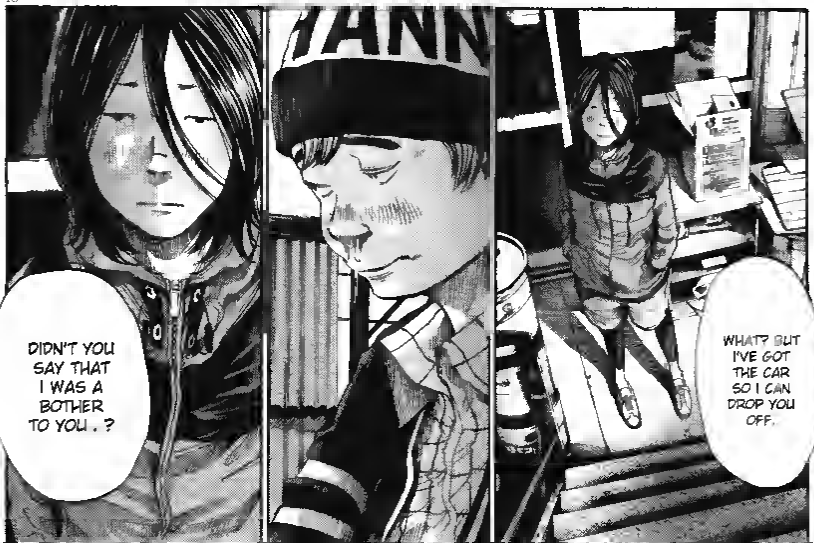
I MEAN THINGS YOU CAN'T BUY WITH MONEY ALONE.
ARE A PAIN IN THE NECK BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SIMPLY SELL THEM OFF WHEN YOU DON'T NEED THEM ANYMORE

HMM...
GOOD POINT.

SHIMIZU,
LET'S GO HOME.

SHIMIZU?

I CAN GO HOME BY MYSELF, TOO.
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME YOURSELF?


DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT I WAS A BOTHER TO YOU . ?
WHAT? BUT I'VE GOT THE CAR SO I CAN DROP YOU OFF.

I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE THAT SERIOUSLY, DUMBASS
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT M-
NO!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING ABOUT ME!
OH, IS THAT SO!?
FINE.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT DUMBASS!

A QUARREL WITH A FRIEND?

AH-
THANKS FOR LAST TIME.
NOT SURE IF IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE MEETING YOU HERE...

A BUSY LITTLE BUGGER, AREN'CHA...
WORKING ALL THOSE DIFFERENT JOBS NIGHT AND DAY...
THIS RECYCLING JOB IS ACTUALLY MY MAIN JOB
ALL THE OTHER WORK I DO IS NOTHING BUT TO KILL SOME TIME...

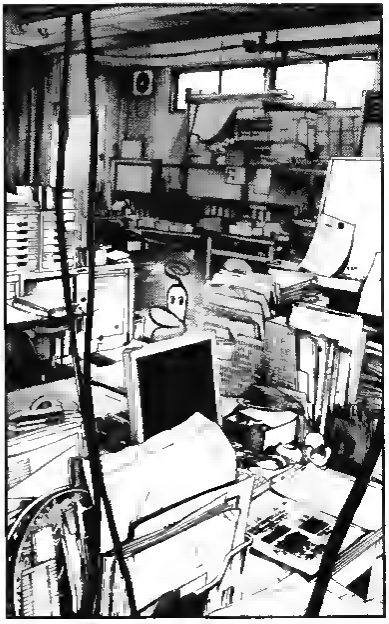
DID YOU THINK ABOUT THE OFFER FROM LAST TIME?
I THINK I'LL HAVE TO REFUSE...
EVEN IF IT PAID REALLY WELL GETTING INVOLVED IN SUCH SHADY STUFF IS A LITTLE...

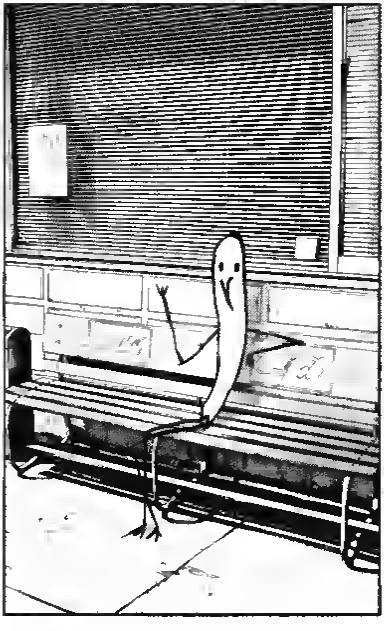
BUT HAVEN'T YOU DONE A LOT OF OTHER NOT-SO-GOOD JOBS BEFORE?
...YES, BUT THERE'S JUST A CERTAIN LINE THAT I CAN'T QUITE CROSS.
ALRIGHT
HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU ANOTHER OFFER THEN?

THIS TIME, IT'LL BE JUST A SIMPLE JOB WHERE ALL YOU'LL DO IS PUSH A BUTTON.

MONEY WON'T EVER BETRAY YOU, YOU KNOW?
UNLIKE A PERSON,

I'LL... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT ONE MORE TIME...



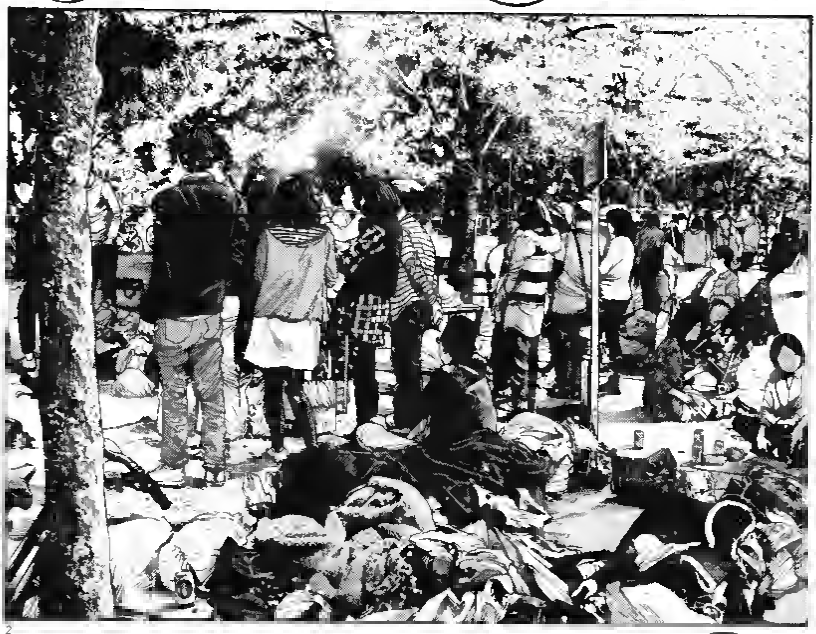


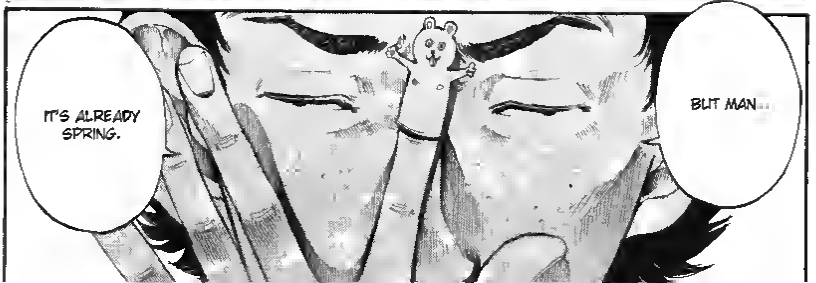
FOOLISH EARTHLINGS! ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY GIRLFRIEND!
GESUMI BE HER NAME!
HI THERE I'M HEBITSUKA GESUMI!
MIMURA AND I WORK TOGETHER AT OUR UNIVERSITY'S GOODS-STORE!

WELL THAT WAS UNEXPECTED
MIMURA, GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE AND BRING YOUR REAL GIRLFRIEND

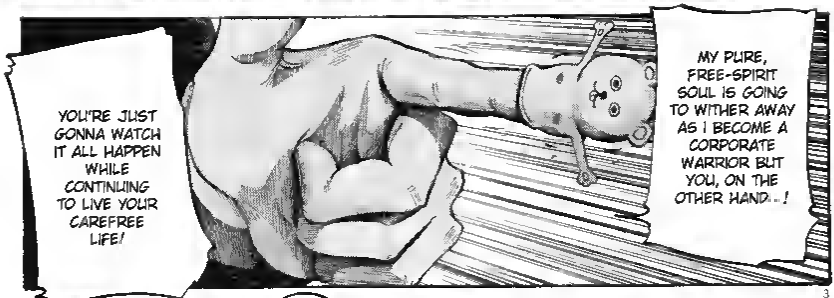
SEE,
I TOLD YOU GUYS THE PLACE WOULD BE PACKED EVEN IF WE CAME AT NOON.

MAN, WE SHOULD'VE GONE SHOPPING FOR THE FOOD AND DRINKS INSTEAD RIGHT, ONO-D?
OH THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE NOT ON THE BEST TERMS WITH NANJOU AT THE MOMENT, RIGHT?
JUST HURRY AND MAKE UP WITH HER ALREADY, YOU IDIOT.
DON'T WANT YOU BRINGING DOWN THE MOOD FOR THE REST OF US, Y'KNOW?
WELP, ME AND GESUMI'LL FIND A PLACE FOR US TO SIT.




IT'S ALREADY SPRING.
BUT MAN...

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU AND I KNEW EACH OTHER...?
5 YEARS, RIGHT? SO THIS IS GONNA BE OUR 6TH SPRING TOGETHER..
AFTER THIS SPRING, I'M JUST THAT MUCH CLOSER TO BECOMING A FULLY FLEDGED MEMBER OF SOCIETY...
I'M GONNA BE WEARING A FREAKIN' SUIT! ME!


MY PURE, FREE-SPIRIT SOUL IS GOING TO WITHER AWAY AS I BECOME A CORPORATE WARRIOR BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...!
YOU'RE JUST GONNA WATCH IT ALL HAPPEN WHILE CONTINUING TO LIVE YOUR CAREFREE LIFE!

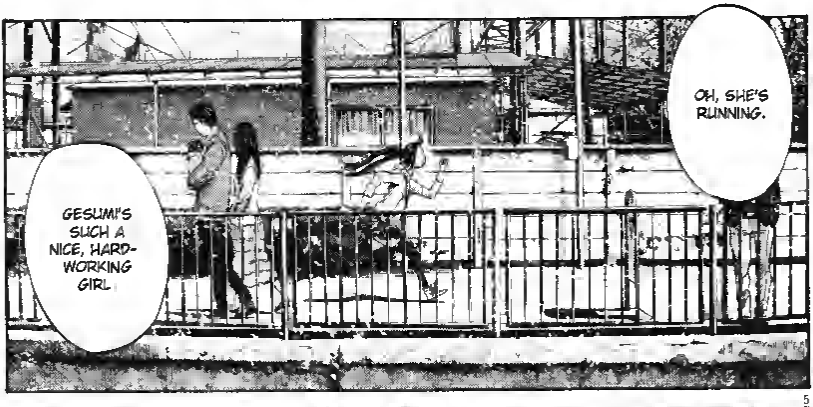
I'LL GO SEARCH FOR SPOTS IN THIS DIRECTION!
Real Estate
ROGER THAT! NOW GO FORTH, TO THE EDGES OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!
WELL, ONCE YOU BECOME A SUCCESSFUL REAL-ESTATE AGENT, I'LL BE ASKING YOU FOR A PLACE TO LIVE!
AGHHH! I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE CARRYING THAT WITH YOU!

HOBIDO

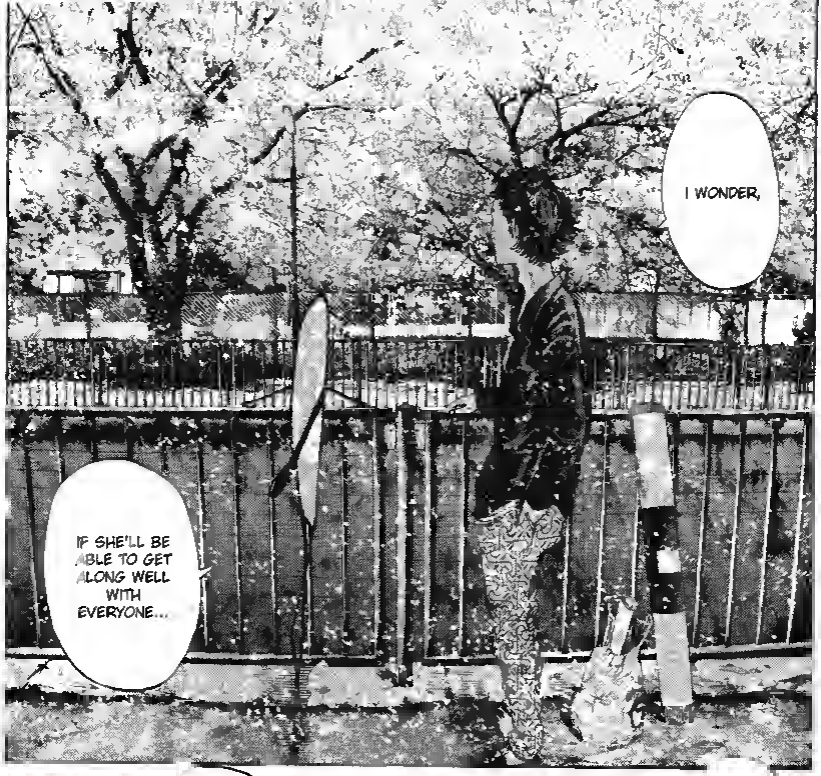
4

WHAT'RE YOU READING? LET ME SEE, PIG.
WHAT, WHAT, WHAT?
MAYBE I SHOULD GET A LIPO-SUCTION.
HMM— AND MAYBE I SHOULD GET BREAST IMPLANTS
OH PLEASE WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE TO GAIN BY GETTING BIGGER BREASTS?
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT LOSE MY HUSBAND IF I DON'T SLIM UP!

YEAH, WE NEED SOME REAL BEER AND SAUSAGES LIKE THEM GERMANS!
WHAAAAT, THAT'S BABY-STUFF!
OH, YOU GIRLS CAN BE SO OBSTINATE THEN SHALL WE TRY ANOTHER STORE...?
WHAT DO YOU SAY TO SOME AMAZAKE INSTEAD?
SORRY, THEY'VE SEEM TO RUN OUT OF BEER...

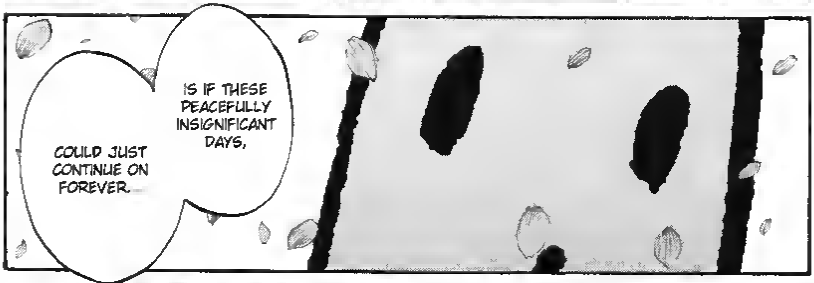

GESUMI'S SUCH A NICE, HARD-WORKING GIRL
OH, SHE'S RUNNING.

OH CRAP, SHE FELL...

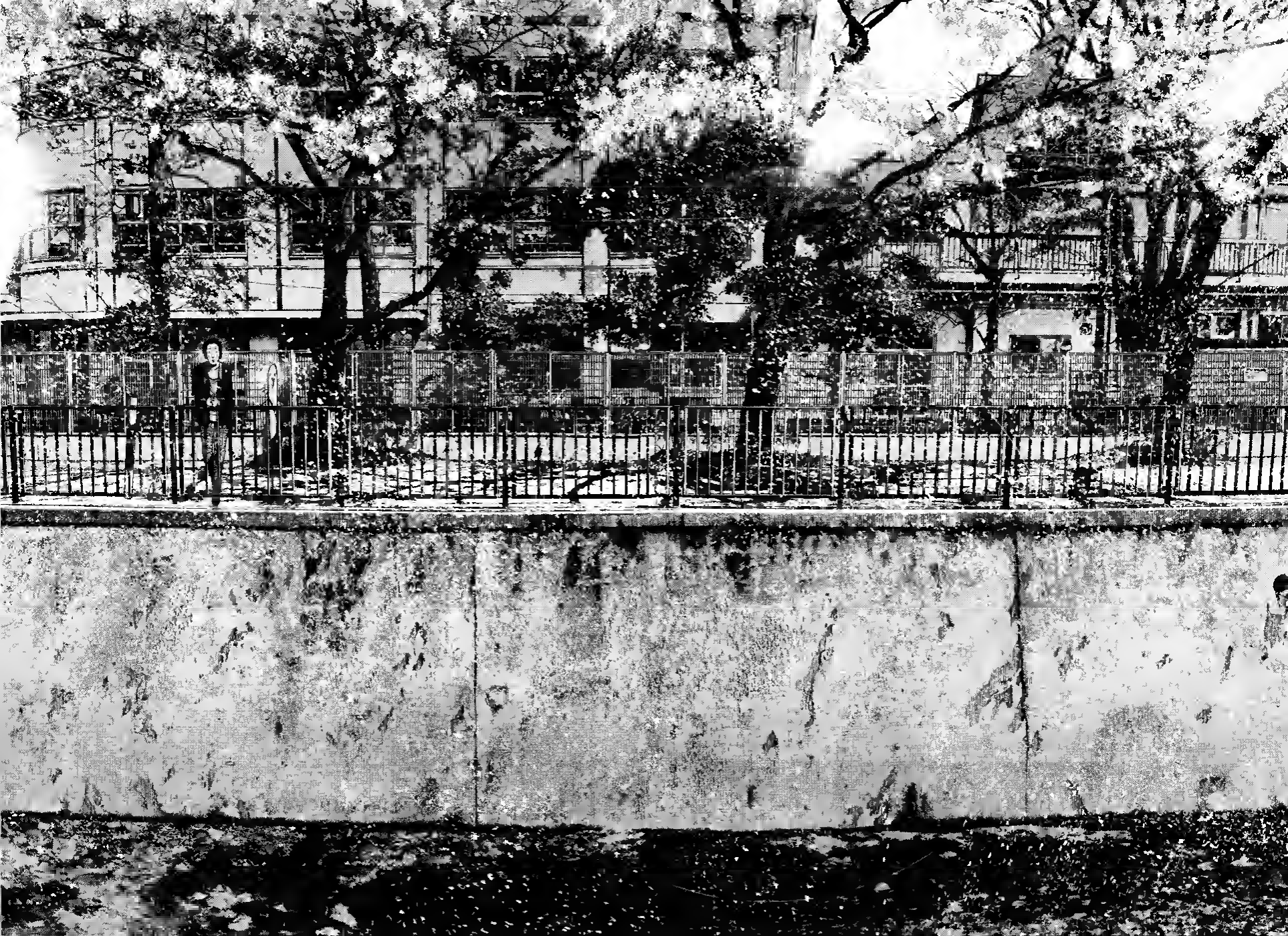

I WONDER,
IF SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WELL WITH EVERYONE...

AND KANIE IS FAT...
NANJOU'S BEAUTIFUL AND DEPENDABLE
BEING TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE AIN'T BAD...
THE MANAGER'S FRIENDLY AND NICE.

MAYBE THE NEXT TIME WE MEET, WE'LL ALL BE GRUMBLING OVER HOW BUSY WE ARE WITH OUR JOBS,
IT'D BE NICE IF WE CAN ALL MEET UP LIKE THIS AGAIN,
BUT THAT MIGHT ALSO BE NICE IN ITS OWN WAY AS WELL...
NEXT YEAR, NEXT-NEXT-YEAR, AND SO ON...



PUNPUN THOUGHT...



MIMURAAA!
I FOUND AN EMPTY SPOT SO COME QUICKLY!
WELL DONE, LAD!
YOU SHALL BE GREATLY REWARDED FOR YOUR DEED!
止まれ
OPTICO MEDIA MAKI
B·CE
VISION
A·IS
自立都市をめざして
政令指定都市実現を推進します！
政令指定都市

ポイント
普通免許
HE'S COMING ALONG NICELY IN HIS REAL ESTATE STUDIES AND ONCE HE DOES BECOME CERTIFIED, HE'LL EVENTUALLY NEED TO KNOW HOW TO DRIVE
OH, I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE IF ONODERA COULD GET HIS DRIVER'S LICENSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
WHY'RE YOU BUYING THAT NOW OF ALL TIMES?
I DON'T KNOW...
HE CAN BE A PRETTY HIT-OR-MISS-KIND OF GUY

WELL WE'RE NOT REALLY FIGHTING FIGHTING.
I'M SURE THINGS'LL GO BACK TO NORMAL BETWEEN US GIVEN ENOUGH TIME.
THAT'LL BE 880 YEN
AND YOU C N BE QUITE THE STUBBORN GIRL..
YOU'RE OLDER THAN HIM SO YOU SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PATCHING THINGS UP.

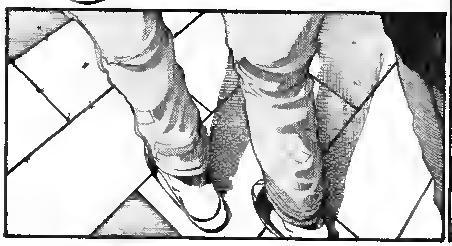
AH,
HOW CUTE.

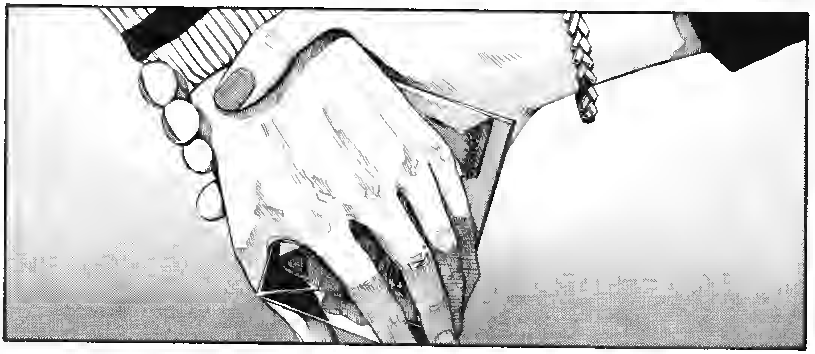
SACHI,
HOW ABOUT I BUY YOU ONE OF THIS,
AND YOU CAN SHARE ONE DOLL WITH ONODERA..?

YOU CAN USE IT TO HELP PATCH THINGS U...

SACHI...?

SACHI...?





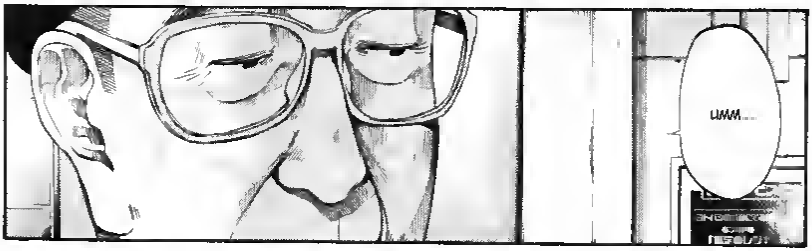
SACHI?

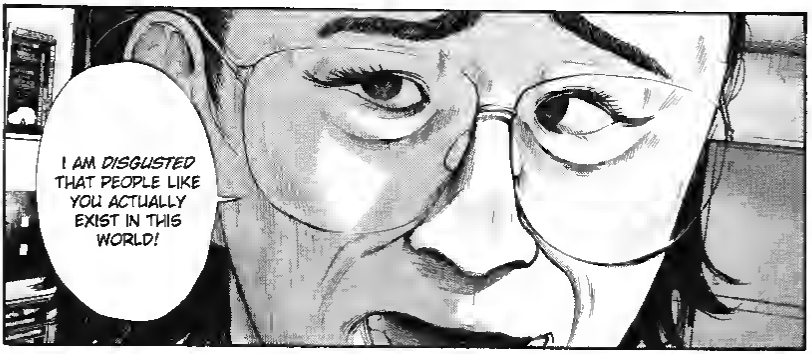
I SAW YOU.

COME ON, THEN
HAND IT OVER.
I'LL BE TAKING YOU TO THE STORE MANAGER.

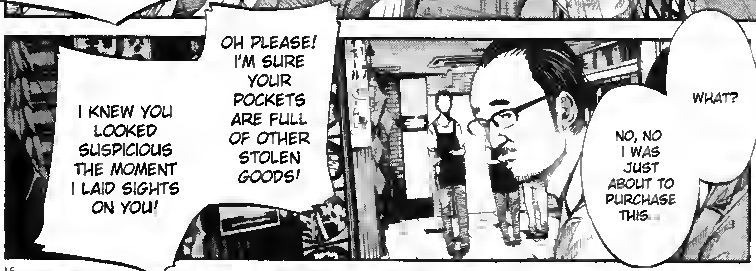
EXCUSE ME?

WHY, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE AT YOUR AGE?
I'VE SEEN THESE THINGS HAPPEN PLENTY OF TIMES ON TV BUT SEEING IT FIRST-HAND IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME OUTRAGED!


UMM...


I AM DISGUSTED THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU ACTUALLY EXIST IN THIS WORLD!

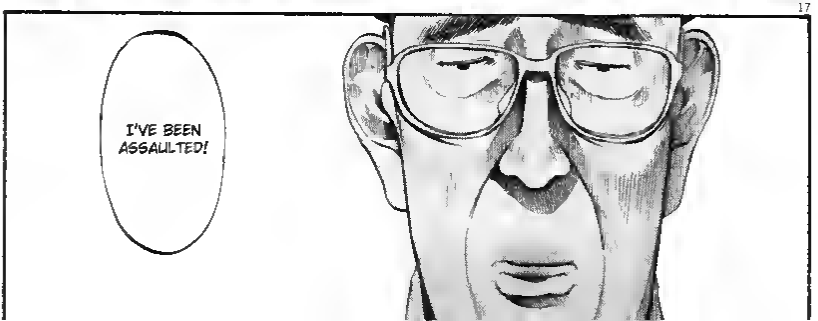
SOME-
ONE
HELP!
THIS
MAN'S
A SHOP-
LIFTER!
INFORMATION
PANDARAKE


I KNEW YOU LOOKED SUSPICIOUS THE MOMENT I LAID SIGHTS ON YOU!
OH PLEASE! I'M SURE YOUR POCKETS ARE FULL OF OTHER STOLEN GOODS!
WHAT?
NO, NO I WAS JUST ABOUT TO PURCHASE THIS...

I'VE BEEN KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU!
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME!
THERE'S NOTHING IN MY POCKETS EXCEPT MY WALLET...

SOMEONE RESTRAIN THIS MAN!
HOLD ON JUST A MOME-
AH-

I...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...!


I'VE BEEN ASSAULTED!

INFORMATION

AH, KANIE.
DID YOU SEE THE MANAGER?

THEY'RE LATE...

PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR BACK!
GO GET ROPES OR SOMETHING TO TIE HIS HANDS WITH!

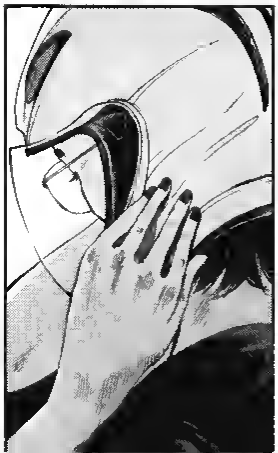
A SHOP-LIFTER?
SOMEONE CALL A SECURITY GUARD!
BUT HE'S JUST AN OLD MAN...

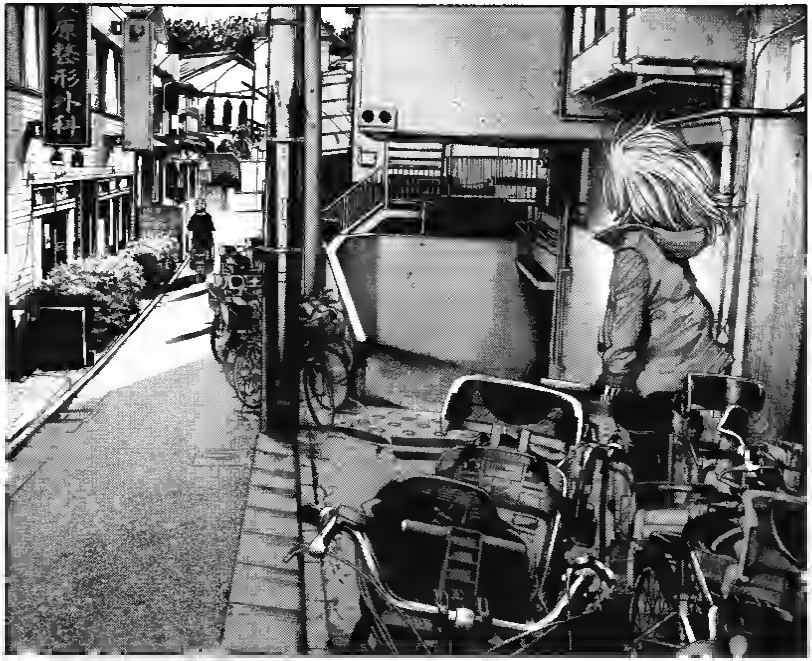
世入合商店街

chapter 97

DAMN!
COOL TACKLE, DUDE!
OH, WELL I USED TO PLAY RUGBY BACK IN MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

OVER HERE, SIRS! THIS IS THE GUY.

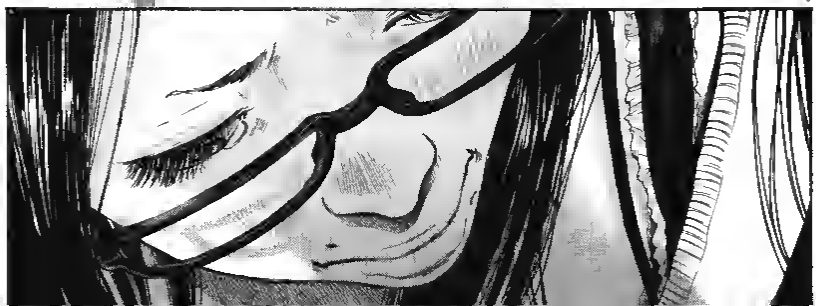




2

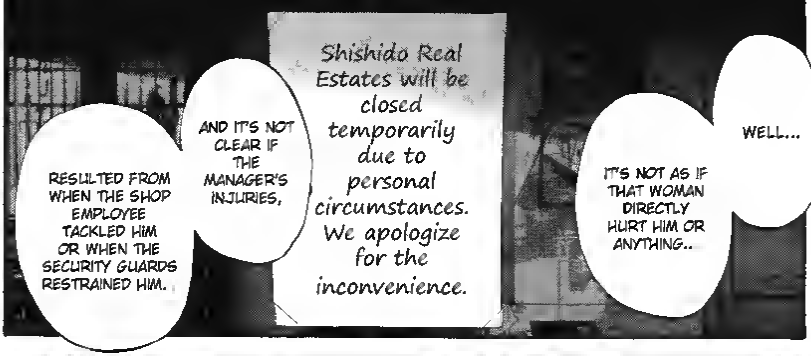
LET ME THROUGH!
MOVE IT, LARDO!
WHY'S THE MANAGER LYING ON THE GROUND!?
WHAT'S GOING O-

WELL!?
WHAT HAPPENED!?



MANAGER ...?

IT'S ALREADY BEEN 3 WEEKS AND THE CRIMINAL STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND!?

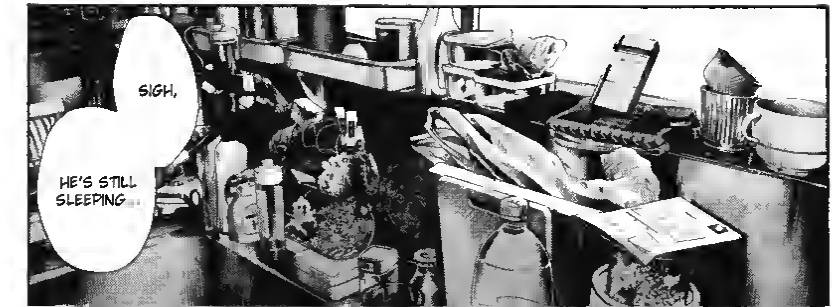

Shishido Real Estates will be closed temporarily due to personal circumstances. We apologize for the inconvenience.
WELL...
IT'S NOT AS IF THAT WOMAN DIRECTLY HURT HIM OR ANYTHING..
AND IT'S NOT CLEAR IF THE MANAGER'S INJURIES,
RESULTED FROM WHEN THE SHOP EMPLOYEE TACKLED HIM OR WHEN THE SECURITY GUARDS RESTRAINED HIM.

YOU'RE ALWAYS MAKING EXCUSES FOR PEOPLE LIKE THAT, KANIE

AND EVEN IF THE ONE RESPONSIBLE WAS PUNISHED, IT'S NOT GOING TO MAKE THE MANAGER SUDDENLY GET BETTER...
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL SACHI, BUT LET'S TRY TO BE RATIONAL, OKAY?
AND THE MANAGER TOO WAS PARTIALLY AT FAULT FOR ABSENT-MINDEDLY WALKING OUT OF THE STORE WITHOUT PAYING...

SAME HERE.
YOU SHOULD TAKE A LITTLE REST TOO, SACHI.
NO, THE TWO OF US NEED TO HEAD HOME FOR TODAY.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO PAY HIM ANOTHER VISIT?

YEAH...
SORRY.


SIGH,
HE'S STILL SLEEPING...

A DISLOCATED SHOULDER AND A SPINAL CORD INJURY...
THE DOCTOR SAID HIS VOICE WOULD RETURN IN DUE TIME, HOWEVER...

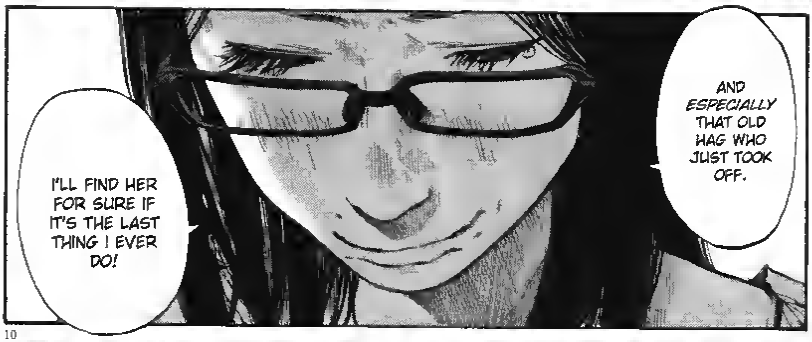
ONODERA.
I THINK YOU BETTER TRY TO FIND WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE SINCE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY YOU ANYMORE...
WITH THE LONG-TERM REHAB HE'LL NEED TO UNDERGO,
I'M THINKING OF RENTING A PLACE CLOSE TO THE HOSPITAL TO LIVE...

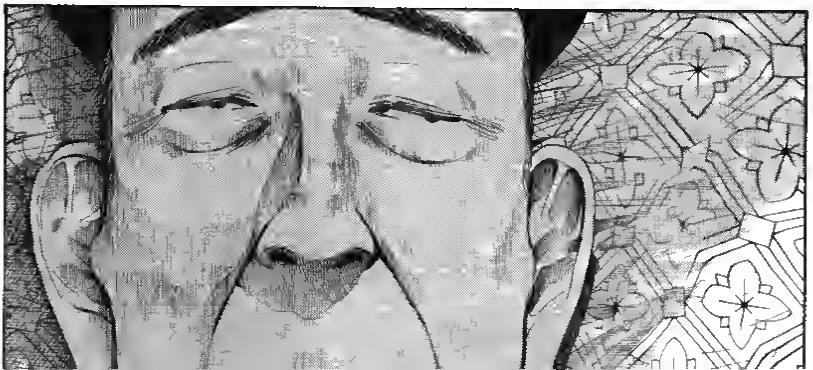
UMM,
COULD I MAYBE ASK THAT YOU DELAY YOUR DECISION FOR A LITTLE LONGER...?
IN THE MEANWHILE YOU CAN LEASE THE OFFICE TO ME I CAN USE IT AS MY WORKSPACE...
AS FOR THIS REAL ESTATE OFFICE I'LL HAVE TO EITHER SELL, RENT OUT, OR TURN IT INTO A PARKING LOT...

FINE AS YOU WISH.
BUT YOU SHOULD BE MORE REALISTIC
AFTER ALL,
THIS ISN'T A SITUATION WHERE I CAN WAIT THAT LONG.

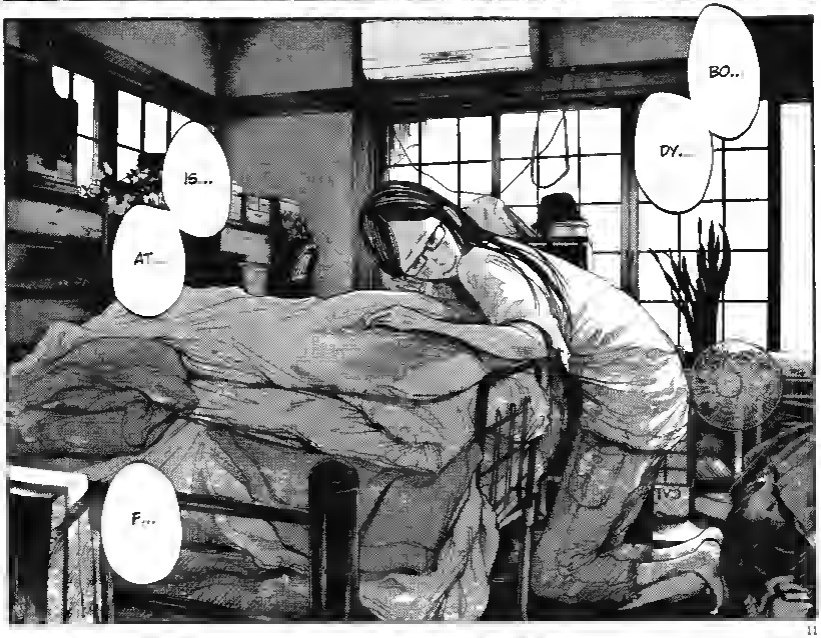
MN...
MANAGER?

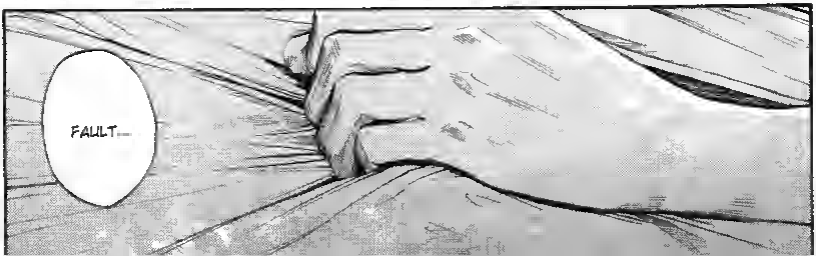
I'LL...
NEVER, EVER FORGIVE.
THOSE IDIOTIC SECURITY GUARDS NOR THAT SHOP EMPLOYEE!


AND ESPECIALLY THAT OLD HAG WHO JUST TOOK OFF.
I'LL FIND HER FOR SURE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I EVER DO!



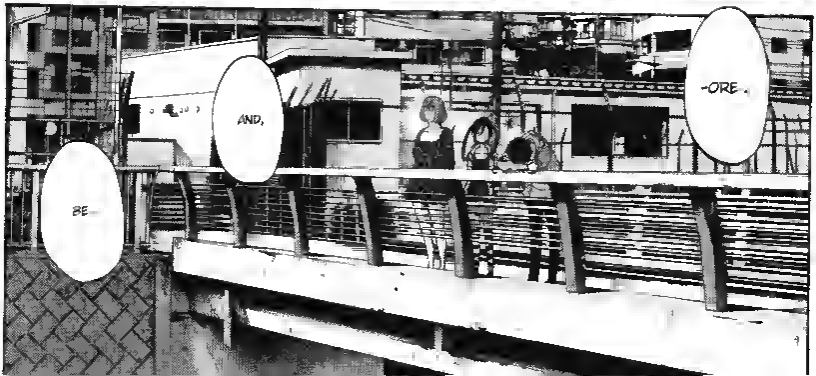
WHAT IS IT?
NO...
DON'T EXERT YOURSELF. I'LL COME CLOSER.
HM?
WHAT IS IT?


BO..
DY...
IS...
AT...
F...

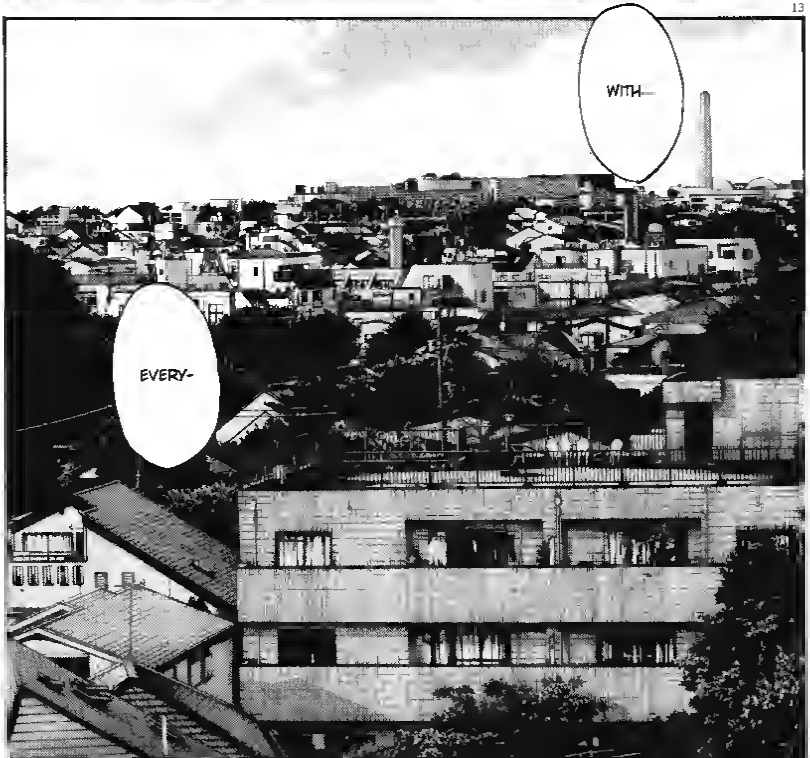

FAULT...

T-
IN...
RUST...
PE...
-PLE...

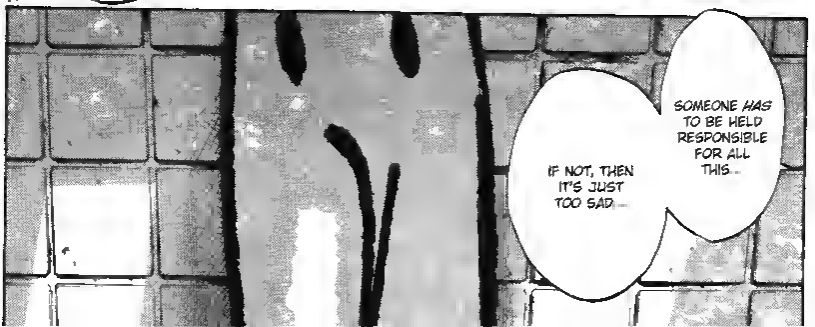
M...


-ORE...
AND,
BE...

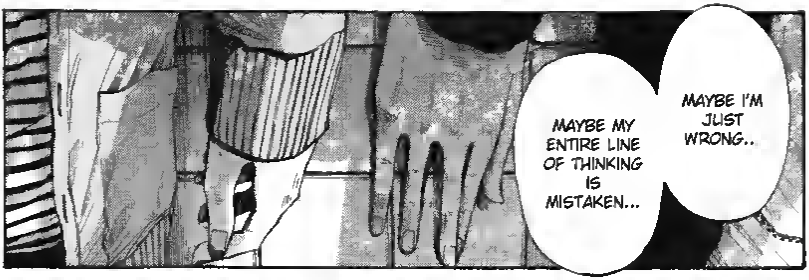
NICE...


WITH—
EVERY-

SIGH...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVER BE *THAT* NICE...


SOMEONE *HAS* TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS...
IF NOT, THEN IT'S JUST TOO SAD...

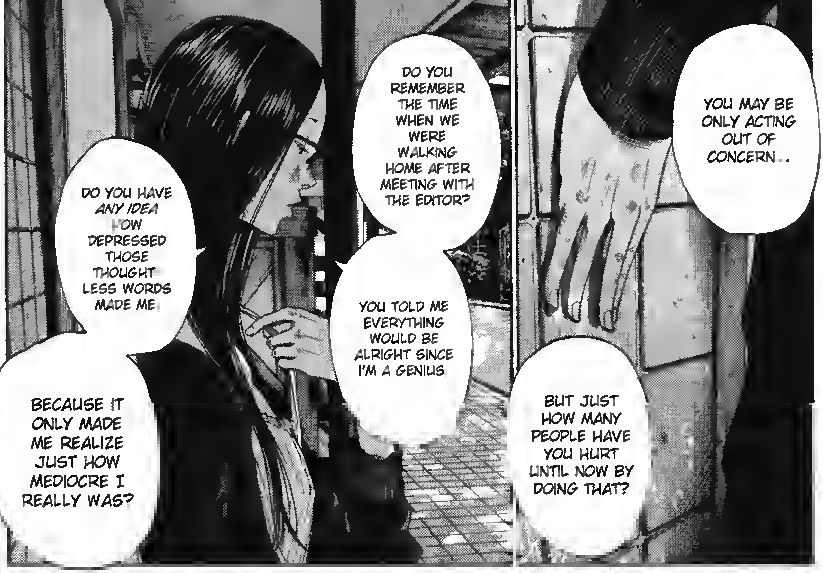
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY TO SUGAR COAT IT,
AN IDIOT IS AN IDIOT.
AND A LOW-LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE A LOW-LIFE
AREN'T THERE PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD THAT ARE BETTER OFF DEAD?


MAYBE I'M JUST WRONG..
MAYBE MY ENTIRE LINE OF THINKING IS MISTAKEN...

JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO,
IN TIMES LIKE THESE...?

DON'T TOUCH ME.

IT'S *BECAUSE* YOU DO STUFF LIKE THAT DURING THESE MOMENTS,
THAT I THINK YOU'RE SO THOUGHTLESS.

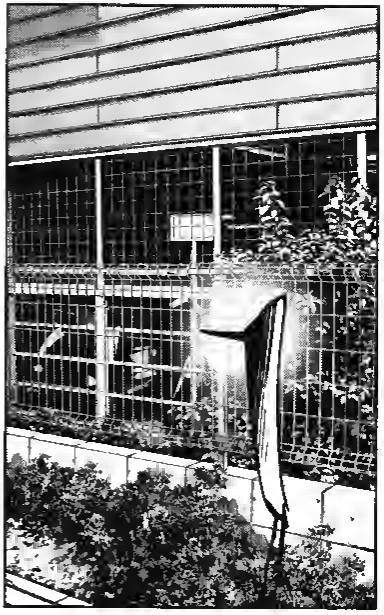

DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN WE WERE WALKING HOME AFTER MEETING WITH THE EDITOR?
YOU MAY BE ONLY ACTING OUT OF CONCERN..
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW DEPRESSED THOSE THOUGHT LESS WORDS MADE ME.
YOU TOLD ME EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALRIGHT SINCE I'M A GENIUS
BUT JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU HURT UNTIL NOW BY DOING THAT?
BECAUSE IT ONLY MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW MEDIOCRE I REALLY WAS?

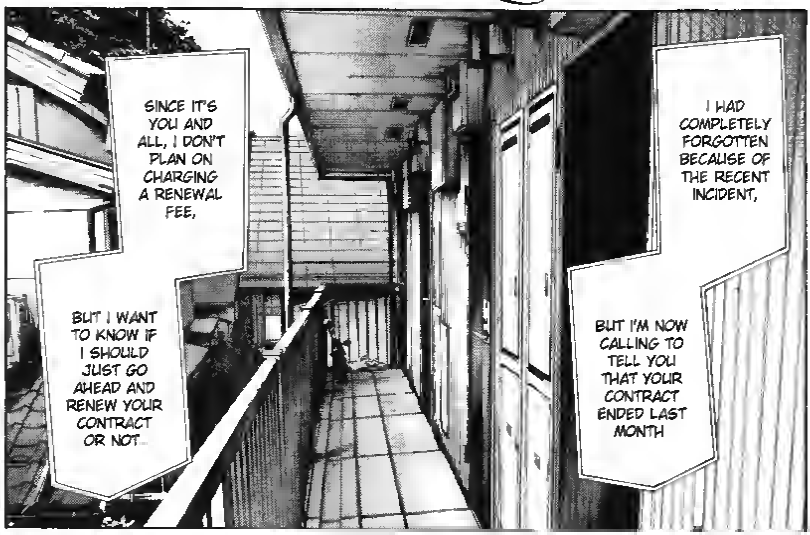
YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT TOO..
YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

"...I'M SORRY."
GOD!

WHY THE HELL DO YOU APOLOGIZE SO EASILY ALL THE GODDAMN TIME!?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS,
THAT I'M JUST SPEWING UNREASONABLE BULLSHIT BECAUSE I'M UPSET!?

SORRY...
I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING...
I CAN'T EVEN SAVE ONE PERSON AND YET I GET ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY ABOUT MY MANGA...
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...

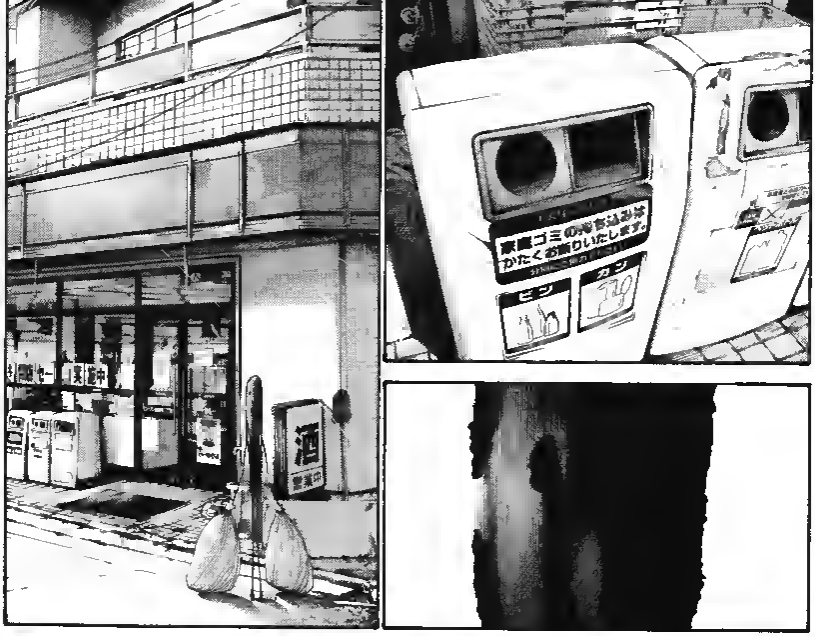



I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN BECAUSE OF THE RECENT INCIDENT,
BUT I'M NOW CALLING TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR CONTRACT ENDED LAST MONTH
SINCE IT'S YOU AND ALL, I DON'T PLAN ON CHARGING A RENEWAL FEE,
BUT I WANT TO KNOW IF I SHOULD JUST GO AHEAD AND RENEW YOUR CONTRACT OR NOT.

...PUNPUN HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN UNTIL THEN.

2 YEARS AGO, HE MADE A PROMISE WITH HIMSELF THAT IF HIS LIFE DIDN'T CHANGE BY THE TIME HE WOULD RENEW THE CONTRACT FOR THE ROOM...

...THEN HE WOULD KILL HIMSELF.
YES, THAT'S WHAT HE HAD DECIDED.



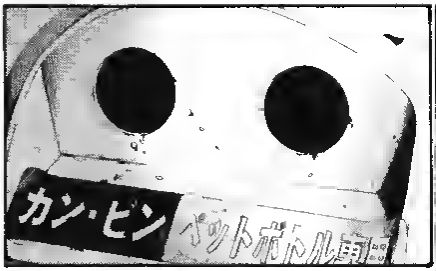
AND SO PUNPUN THOUGHT TO HIMSELF...

DID ANYTHING REALLY CHANGE THESE PAST TWO YEARS...?

ONODERA,
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO COME TO THE MIXER NEXT WEEK?
STOP IT. YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE HIM TO COME
BESIDES, ONODERA'S NOT VERY GOOD AT TALKING WITH OTHERS
SOOA

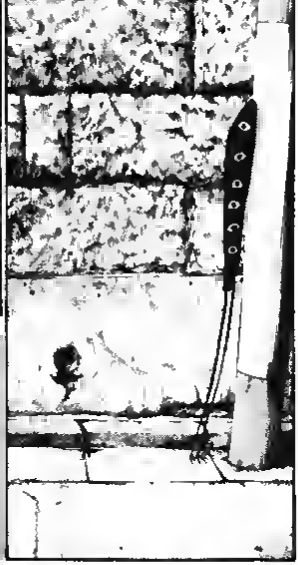
ALL I DID WAS TAKE
A LONG DETOUR.

BUT IN THE END, I'M BACK
TO WHERE I STARTED...



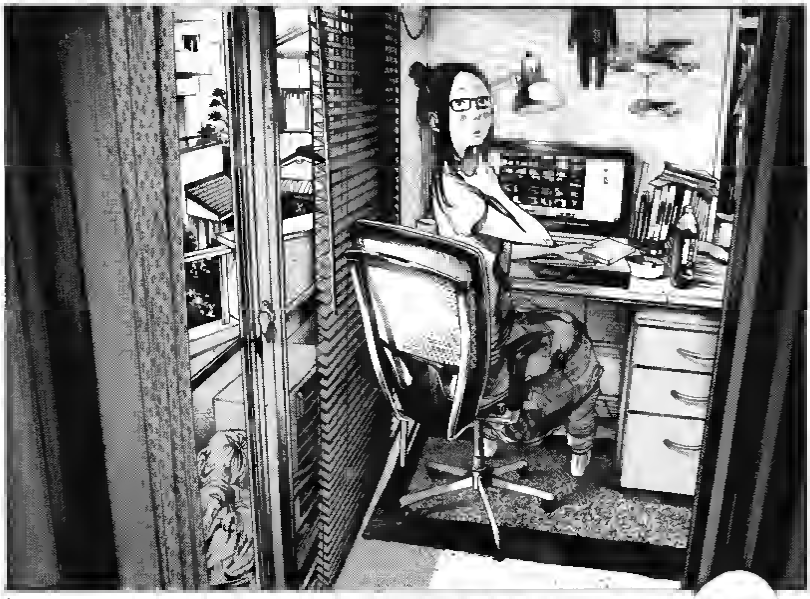
4

I'M BACK TO
WHERE I
STARTED...!

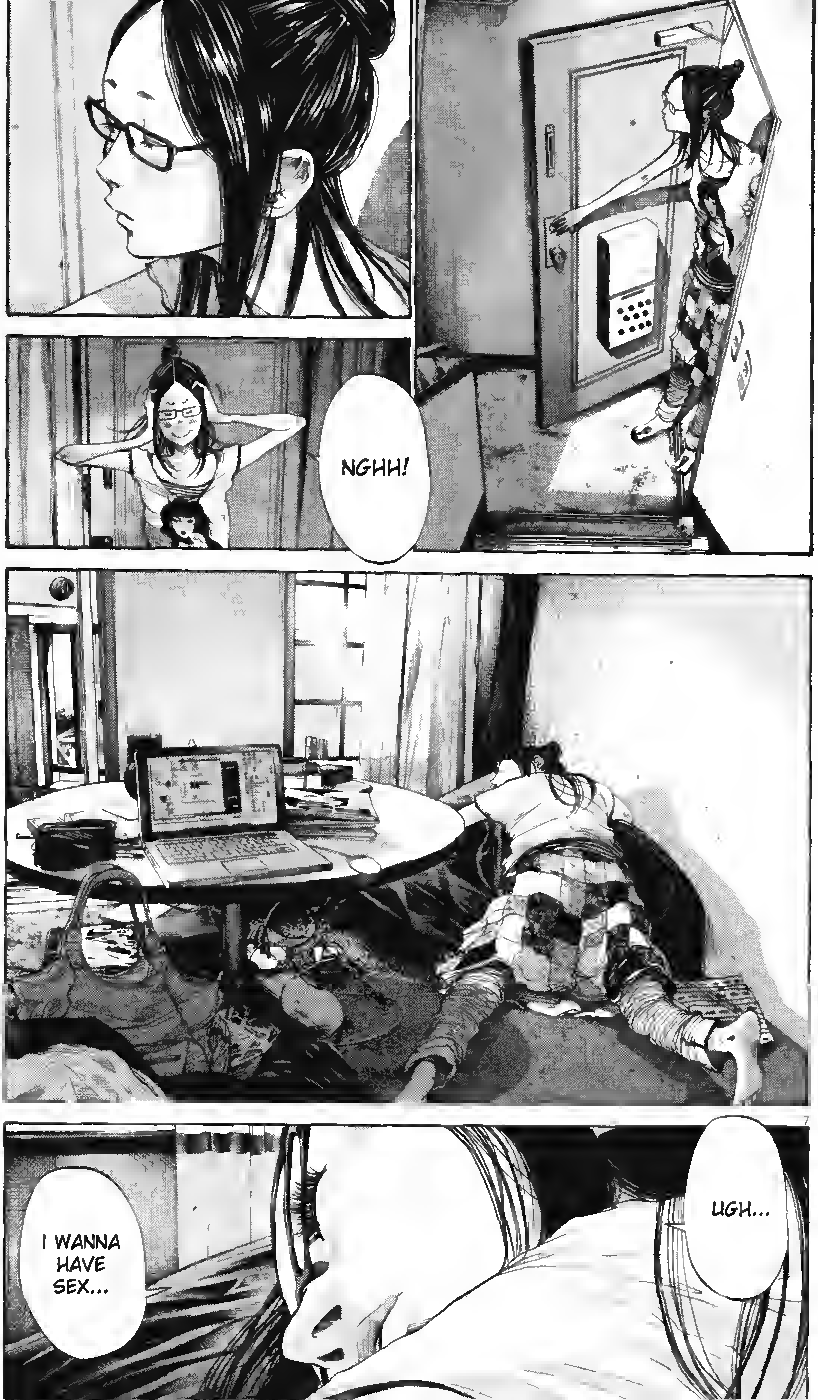


NO, NOT QUITE.
I BRIEFLY TRIED TO
FOLLOW THE LIGHT
IN THE TUNNEL...

BUT THE TUNNEL GRADUALLY
BECAME DARKER AND DARKER...



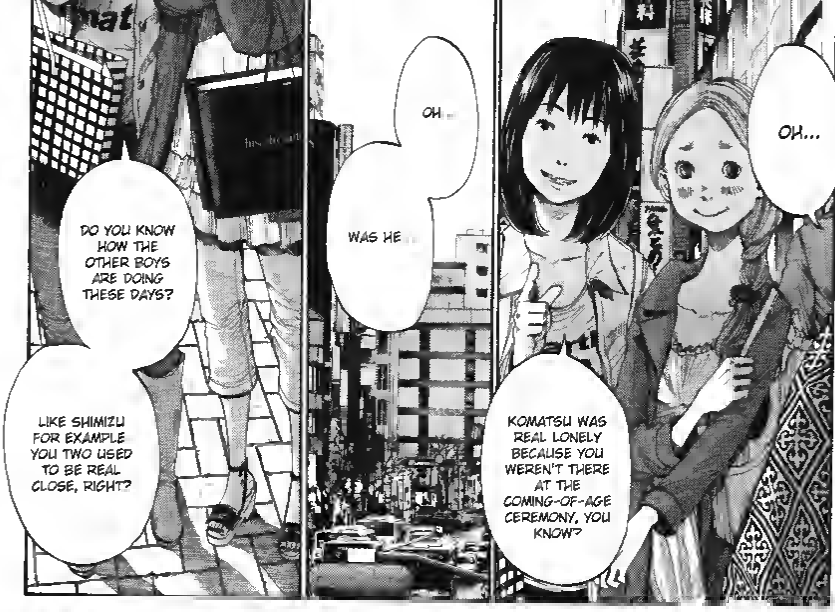
I'M COMING!
MONO
HANG ON!


NGHH!
I WANNA HAVE SEX...
UGH...

omo.
PYABO FUGYA!
MIMURAA!

WAIT,
AREN'T YOU SEKI?

IT'S ME! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATION!
I CAME BACK HERE FROM UNIVERSITY SINCE IT WAS THE HOLIDAYS. THE TWO OF US GO TO THE SAME UNIVERSITY
WHAAAT, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME? WE USED TO BE CLASS-MATES BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HELLO...?
UMM, YEAH..


OH...
KOMATSU WAS REAL LONELY BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T THERE AT THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY, YOU KNOW?
OH...
WAS HE...
DO YOU KNOW HOW THE OTHER BOYS ARE DOING THESE DAYS?
LIKE SHIMIZU FOR EXAMPLE YOU TWO USED TO BE REAL CLOSE, RIGHT?

THAT NIGHT, PUNPUN HAD A VERY ODD DREAM.

HI-HO!
UNFORTU-
NATELY,
I DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME
ANYMORE...
SO I'LL
JUST GET
RIGHT TO IT
AND ASK!
ARE YOU ONE
OF THOSE
THAT CAN!?

"NO, I'M NOT... I'M NEVER ONE OF THOSE WHO CAN...!"

IF YOU WERE TO JUST JOIN HANDS WITH US, YOU COULD WELCOME FORTH A BRAND NEW WORLD YOU KNOW?
EVEN THOUGH OUR OSCILLATIONS SHARE A CLOSE BOND OF 7 DEGREES...
THAT'S A SHAME

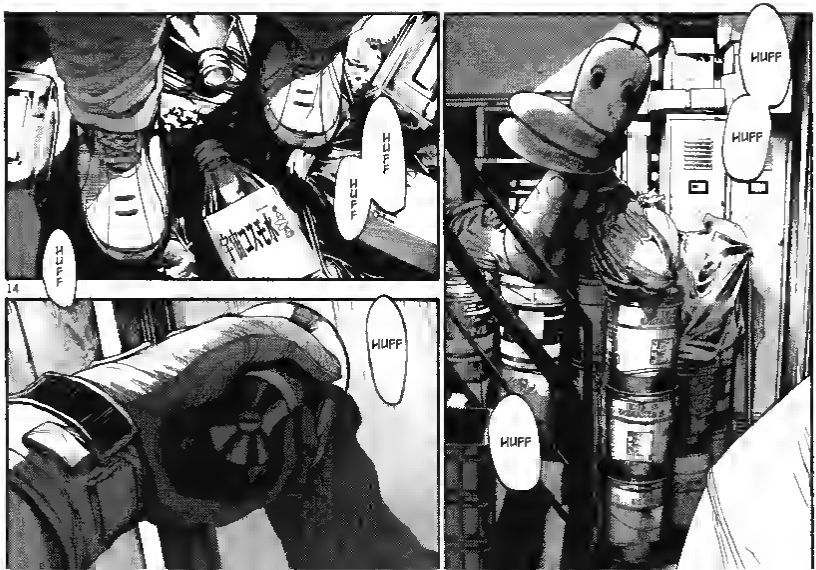
"THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE..."

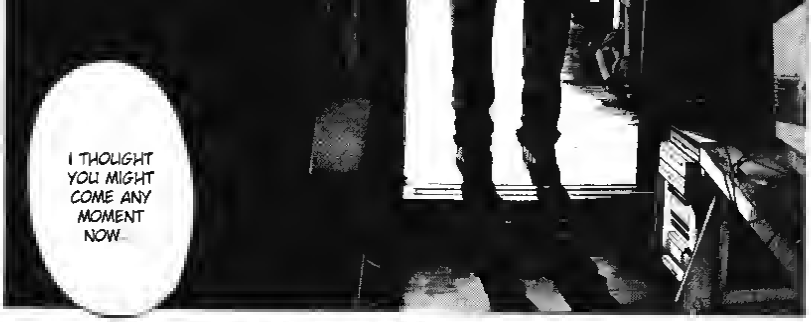
SORRY, BUT I HAVE WORK FROM NOON TOMORROW... SO UMM... IF YOU DON'T MIND, WOULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE?

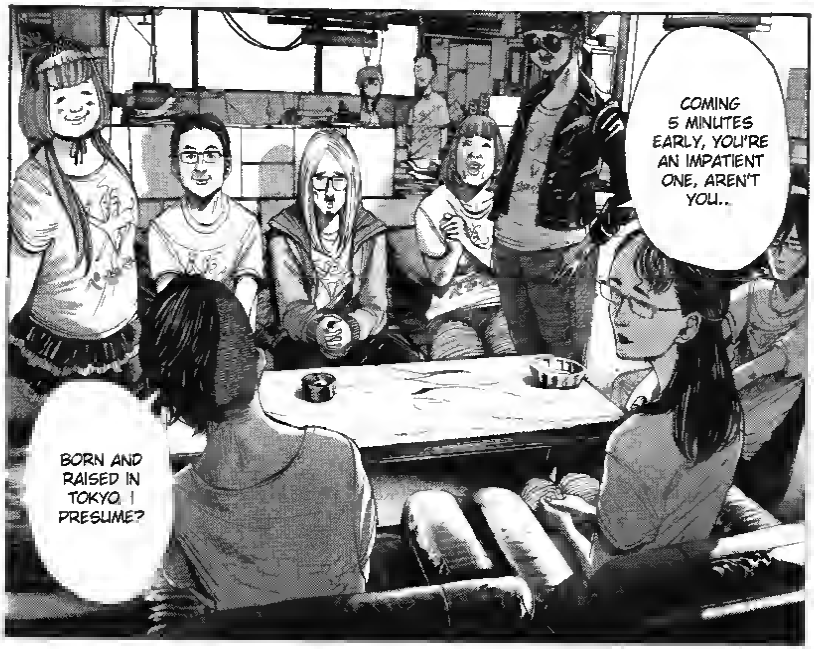
Welcome back, Punpun

"...HELLO AGAIN."

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT COME ANY MOMENT NOW...


COMING 5 MINUTES EARLY, YOU'RE AN IMPATIENT ONE, AREN'T YOU..
BORN AND RAISED IN TOKYO, I PRESUME?

WELL I LOVE THAT PART ABOUT YOU,
MORE THAN I CAN BEAR...

FROM TODAY YOUR NAME WILL BE,
WEEKLY BIG COMIC SPIRITS...

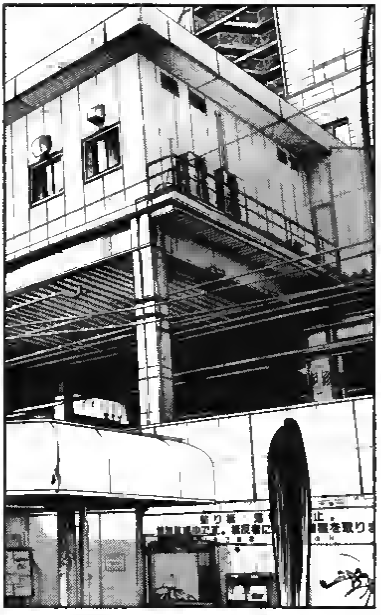
BEFORE WE PERFORM,
WHY DON'T WE RAISE A TOAST. ?
FREEZIE, GIVE A GLASS TO HIM.

I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY..
Mr Pepper
MAGICAL WARRIORS OF THE 12 MUSCIAL SCALES.
QUICKLY, SHIMIZU!

BY OUR COMBINED STRENGTH, LET US EXTINGUISH THE DARK SPOT,
AND GUIDE THE LOVERS INTO A BRAND NEW WORLD

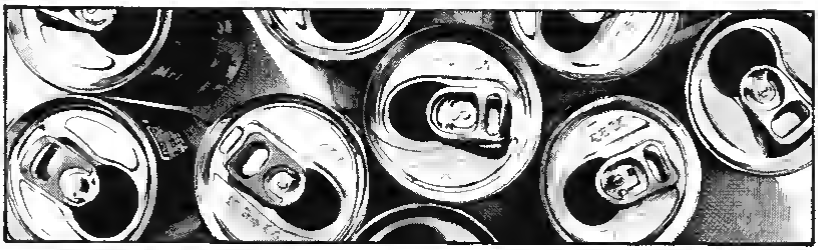
Mr Pepper

WELCOME,
TO THE PEGASUS ENSEMBLE!



AH-

THE VOICE OF THE DAYTIME TALK SHOW HOST DRIFTED INSIDE HIS EAR, WHERE IT TRIGGERED AN ELECTRICAL SYNAPSE THAT SLOWLY AWOKE HIS BRAIN. IT SEEMED THAT HE HAD SLEPT FOR NEARLY 12 HOURS BECAUSE OF MAY'S WARM WEATHER. AFTER FINALLY OPENING HIS HALF-CLOSED EYES, HE SAW AN AMATEUR IMPRESSIONIST ON TV TRYING TO DO AN IMPRESSION OF SOME FAMOUS PERSON HE DID NOT KNOW. A POPULAR COMEDIAN THEN TOLD A JOKE TO GET THE AUDIENCE FIRED UP BUT TO HIM, THE EVENTS ON SCREEN COULDN'T SEEM LESS REAL. LIKE A CONVERSATION BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM THE FUTURE OF AN ALTERNATE DIMENSION, THE SHOW SEEMED NOTHING MORE THAN THE HAPPENINGS OF A WORLD FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HIM.



THE BILLS INFORMED HIM THAT IF HE DID NOT PAY WITHIN 5 DAYS, HIS ELECTRICITY WOULD BE CUT OFF. HE WONDERED WHY HE TIME AND TIME AGAIN DELAYED DOING THESE SIMPLE THINGS. TO DO ANYTHING WHEN LIVING ALONE SEEMED TO MAKE THINGS SO HECTIC YET TO DO NOTHING WAS TOO BORING.

FEELING THIRSTY, HE LOOKED AROUND THE TABLE FOR SOMETHING TO PARCH HIS THROAT BUT HE COULD ONLY FIND HALF-DRUNK CANS OF COFFEE. AS HE CONSIDERED WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO JUST DRINK HIS OWN URINE AND EXCRETE IT BACK OUT, ONLY TO DRINK IT AGAIN AND SO FORTH, THE SOUND OF HIS MAILBOX BEING OPENED WAS HEARD. IT STARTLED HIM FOR A MOMENT, BUT HE THEN REALIZED IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING MORE THAN THE USUAL BILLS. AFTER ALL, THERE WAS NO OTHER REASON WHY ANYONE IN THIS WORLD WOULD NEED TO CONTACT HIM FOR.

AT THE BOOKSTORE JUST IN FRONT OF HIS WORKPLACE, HE READ A GUIDE ON HOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE. IT SEEMED THAT HANGING YOURSELF FROM A DOOR KNOB WAS A GOOD METHOD. HOLDING THE BOOK IN HAND, HE WALKED UP TO THE REGISTER BUT THERE HE NOTICED A CUTE, ROUND-FACED, GLASSES-WEARING FEMALE CASHIER BEING BERATED BY A MIDDLE-AGED MALE CUSTOMER. FOR SOME REASON, LOOKING AT HER CRYING WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM START CRYING TOO. HE IMAGINED HIMSELF DOING A SWEEPING LEG THROW ON THE MEAN OLD MAN AND REPEATEDLY PUNCHING HIM AFTERWARDS UNTIL HIS BRAINS SPLATTERED OUT BUT OF COURSE, HE HAD NO SUCH COURAGE TO ACTUALLY CARRY IT OUT. UNABLE TO BEAR THE SCENE ANY LONGER, HE LEFT THE STORE WITHOUT BUYING THE BOOK. HE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF THAT IF HE HAD THE COURAGE TO KILL HIMSELF, HE SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE AHEAD AND KILLED THAT MAN. BUT HE KNEW THAT WAS JUST HOW HIS PATHETIC, WEAK-WILLED SELF WAS.

2

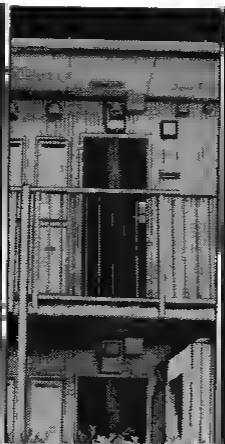
WHILE WALKING HOME, HE SPOTTED A WOMAN LYING DOWN UNCONSCIOUS ALONG THE SIDEWALK. HE NERVOUSLY APPROACHED HER, WONDERING IF SHE HAD DIED, BUT SHE TURNED OUT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A PASSED-OUT DRUNK. A BROWN-HAIRED WOMAN WEARING HIGH-HEEL BOOTS, FRAYED JEANS, AND A WHITE T-SHIRT THAT DID LITTLE TO COVER HER BARE STOMACH WHICH SEEMED TO READ, "PLEASE RAPE ME." CLICKING HIS TONGUE IN DISGUST, HE QUICKLY LEFT THE SCENE AND HEADED HOME.

AT THE PARK WHILE EATING BREAD, HE IMAGINED HIMSELF GOING OUT WITH THAT FEMALE CASHIER AND HAVING SEX. HOWEVER, UNLESS 10 MIRACLES WERE TO HAPPEN TO HIM, IT WOULD BE UNLIKELY THAT SUCH FANTASIES WOULD EVER COME TRUE.

AFTER MUCH THOUGHT, HE DECIDED TO ASK HIS CO-WORKER IF HE COULD JOIN THE MIXER AFTER ALL, BUT HIS CO-WORKER REPLIED THAT THE NUMBER OF PARTY MEMBERS HAD ALREADY BEEN SET AND UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE CHANGED. SEEING THE TROUBLED LOOK ON HIS CO-WORKER'S FACE, HE QUICKLY STAMMERED, "IT'S FINE THEN, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME." ALL THE WHILE WONDERING JUST WHAT EXACTLY IN HIS LIFE WAS "FINE." FEELING A LITTLE EMBARRASSED, HE NERVOUSLY LAUGHED TO HIMSELF BEFORE ACCIDENTALLY LETTING OUT A BIG SNORT. SOON AFTERWARDS, HE WAS MET BY A STOMACH-ACHE SO HE RETREATED TO THE WASHROOM WHERE HE LET OUT A GREAT BIG SHIT LIKE A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WITH BOWEL PROBLEMS. HEARING THE MUFFLED LAUGHTER OF HIS CO-WORKERS COMING ACROSS THE DOOR, HE THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT TIME FOR HIM TO QUIT THIS PART-TIME JOB TOO.

SOME FEW HOURS AFTER RETURNING HOME, HE BECAME SUDDENLY WORRIED FOR THAT WOMAN EARLIER SO HE WENT BACK OUT TO LOOK FOR HER. HOWEVER, WHEN HE ARRIVED AT THE PLACE, SHE WAS NO LONGER THERE.

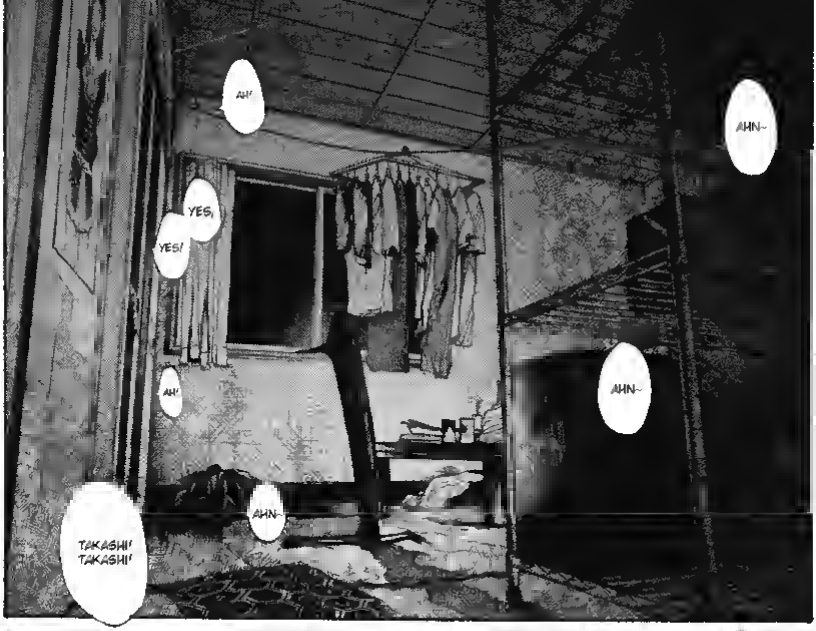
FRANKLY, HE WAS TIRED OF HIMSELF.



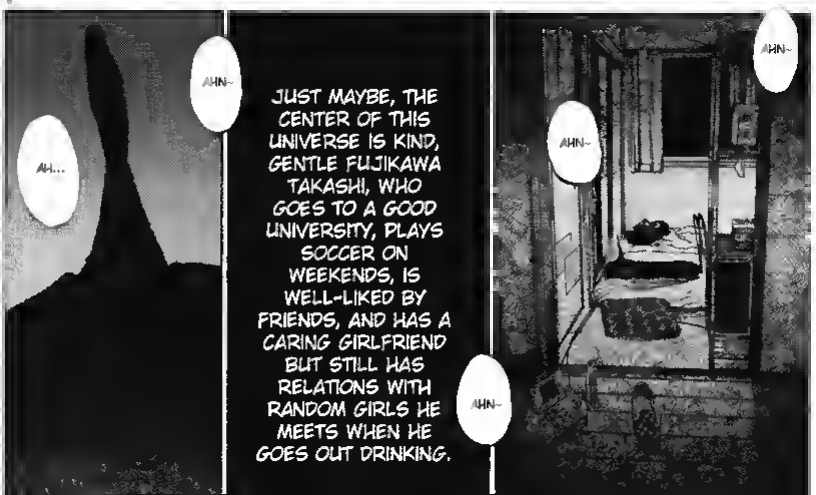
THAT WAS HOW PUNPUN'S DAY WENT.

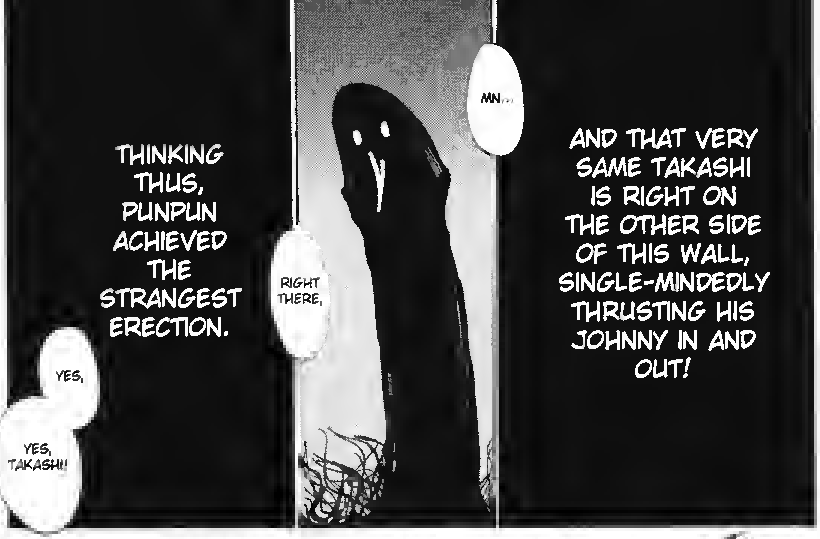
HIS MESSILY SCATTERED ITEMS SEEMED TO HIM LIKE THE DREGS LEFT BEHIND AFTER HIS WORTHLESS LIFE WAS FILTERED THROUGH A METAPHORICAL TEA STRAINER.

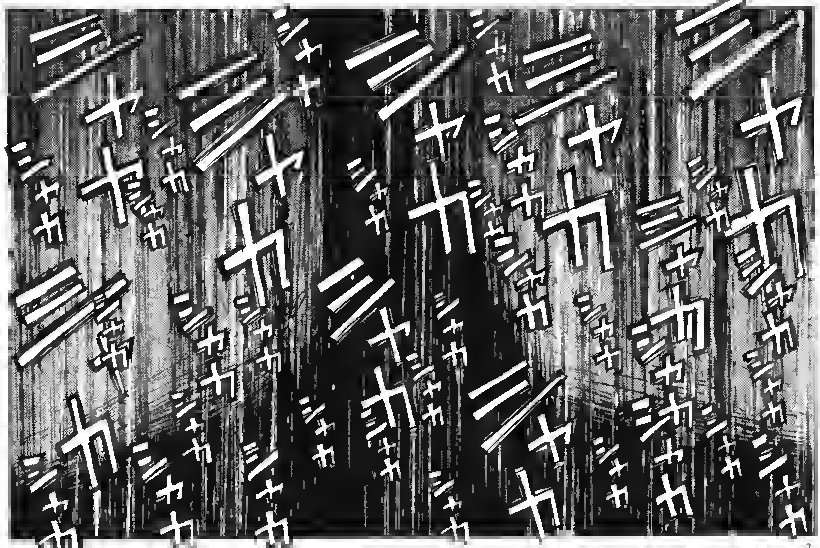
HE WANTED TO JUST THROW IT ALL AWAY AND SO HE DID JUST THAT.


AH!
YES,
YES!
AH!
TAKASHI!
TAKASHI!
AHN~
AHN~
AHN~

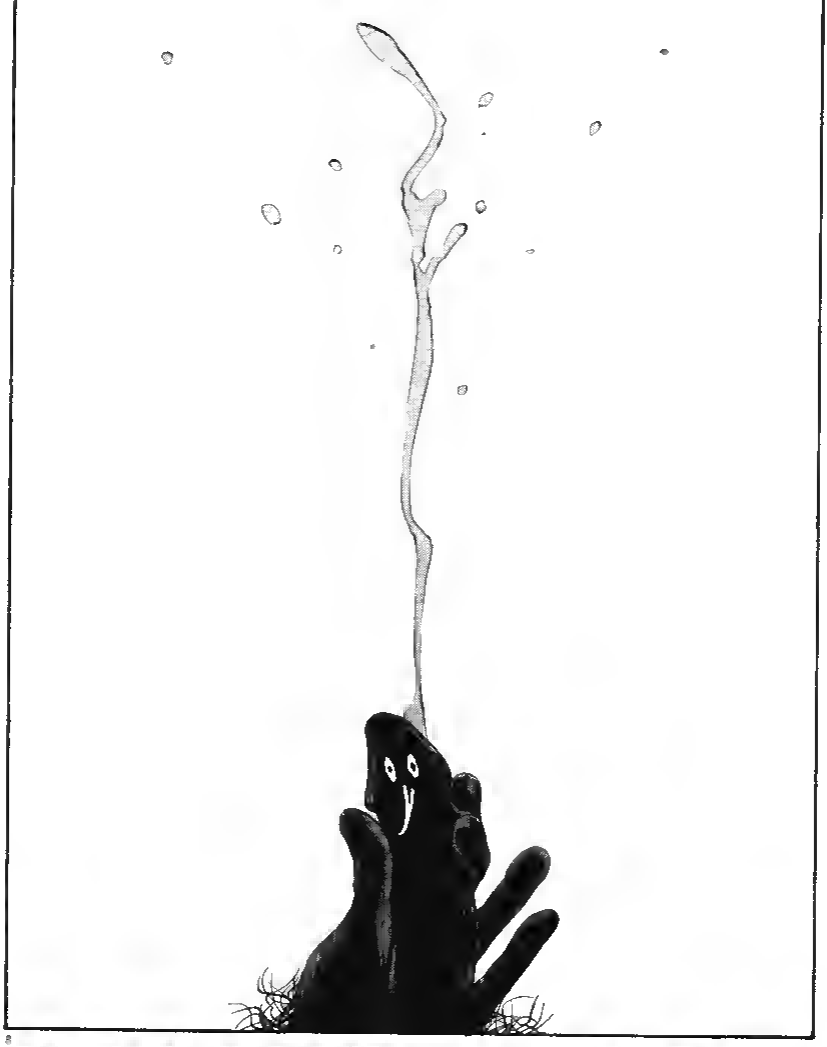
MAYBE...
THIS UNIVERSE REVOLVES AROUND TAKASHI.
MN!
YURIA!
YURIA!


AHN~
AH...
JUST MAYBE, THE CENTER OF THIS UNIVERSE IS KIND, GENTLE FUJIKAWA TAKASHI, WHO GOES TO A GOOD UNIVERSITY, PLAYS SOCCER ON WEEKENDS, IS WELL-LIKED BY FRIENDS, AND HAS A CARING GIRLFRIEND BUT STILL HAS RELATIONS WITH RANDOM GIRLS HE MEETS WHEN HE GOES OUT DRINKING.
AHN~
AHN~
AHN~


THINKING THUS, PUNPUN ACHIEVED THE STRANGEST ERECTION.
YES,
YES, TAKASHI!
RIGHT THERE,
MN...
AND THAT VERY SAME TAKASHI IS RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL, SINGLE-MINDEDLY THRUSTING HIS JOHNNY IN AND OUT!



I'M-
I'M COMING!
TAKASHI! TAKASHI! TAKASHI!
TAKASHI!
TAKASHI!



I LOVE
TAKASHI!

AH-

I WANT TAKASHI TO LICK EVERY INCH OF MY BODY...

I WANT HIM TO GENTLY CARESS ME...

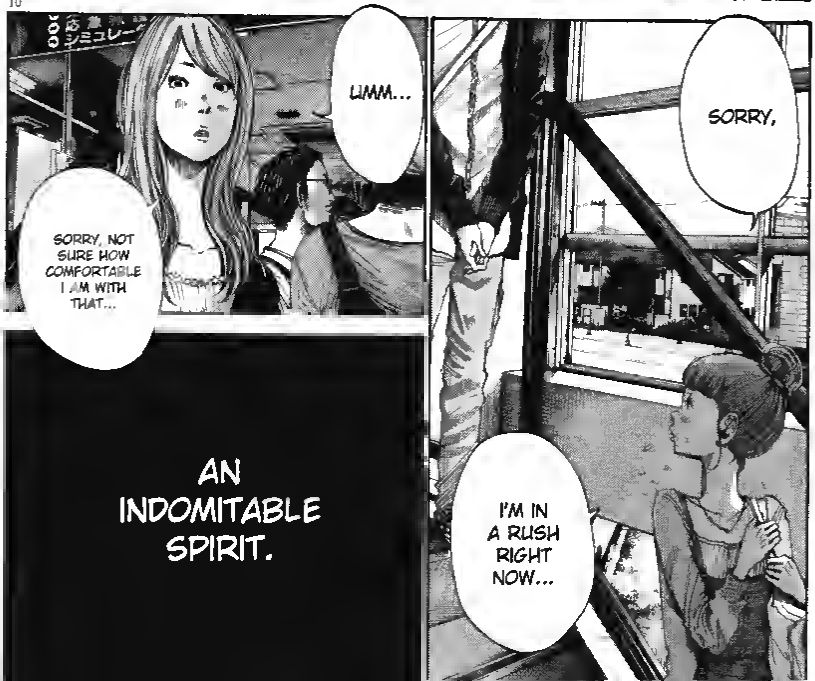
AND THEN I WANT HIM TO SLAP MY ASS!

YOU CAN COME INSIDE ME...

AS LONG AS YOU HOLD ME IN YOUR WARM EMBRACE AFTERWARDS...

THAT NIGHT, ONODERA PUNPUN DIED.

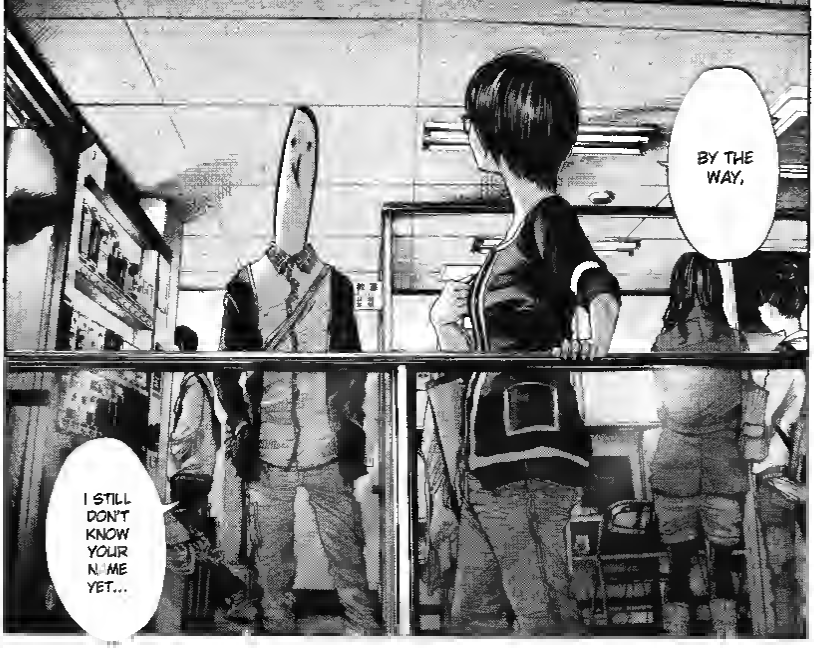
公認北相模自動車学校


UMM...
SORRY, NOT SURE HOW COMFORTABLE I AM WITH THAT...
AN INDOMITABLE SPIRIT.
SORRY,
I'M IN A RUSH RIGHT NOW...

LET ME CLEAN THIS UP RIGHT NOW...
OH SORRY,
WOULD YOU LIKE A SEAT?
WHO, ME?
YES, I AM FREE AT THE MOMENT...
UNRELENTING COURAGE.
OH, SO TODAY IS YOUR FIRST DAY?

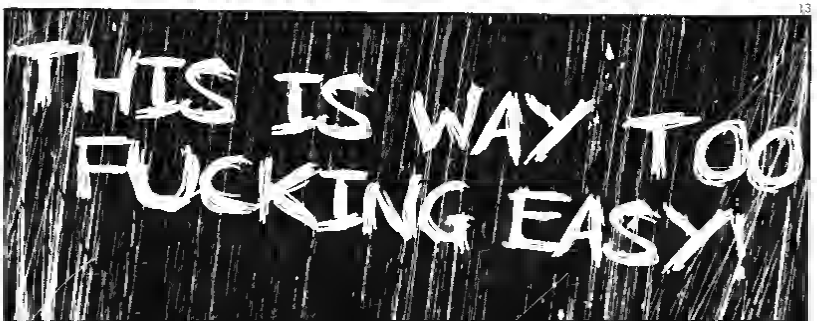
I'M JUST HERE BECAUSE MY PARENTS TOLD ME TO GO GET A LICENSE...
YES, I KNOW WAITING FOR THE APPOINTMENT CAN BE SO BORING IN MY CASE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE I JUST MOVED HERE TO TOKYO FOR UNIVERSITY SO I DON'T HAVE VERY MANY FRIENDS YET.
YOU'RE APPLYING FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE SO YOU CAN DRIVE YOUR SOCCER TEAM?
WOW, THAT'S SO CONSIDERATE OF YOU!

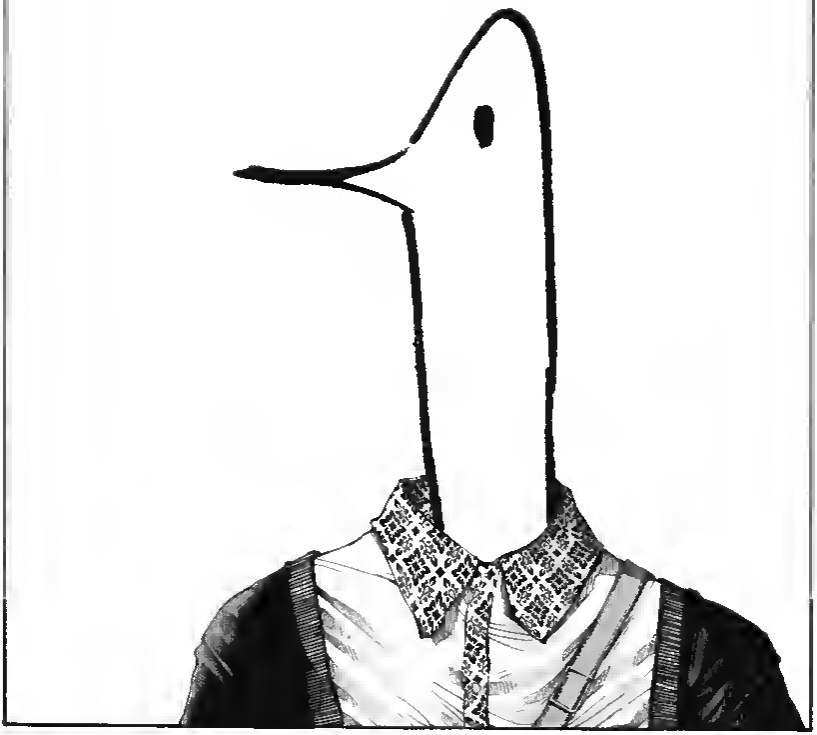
AH THAT'S RIGHT
I HAVE TO BOOK MY NEXT TRAINING TIME
kitasagami
Driving School



"JUST CALL ME TAKASHI, THAT'S WHAT ALL MY FRIENDS CALL ME!"

SEE.
AS LONG AS I COMPLETELY DISREGARD MY FORMER SELF, THINGS WILL GO JUUUST FINE.
IN FACT...
YES, TAKE CARE.
'TIL NEXT TIME THEN.

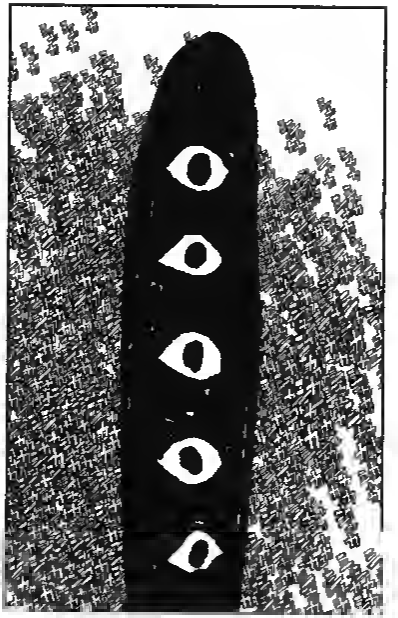

THIS IS WAY TOO FUCKING EASY.



AT THAT INSTANT, ONODERA PUNPUN/FUJIKAWA TAKASHI (AGE 20) WANTED TO LOUDLY HOLLER AT ALL THE OTHER WORTHLESS SACKS OF CRAP OUT THERE IN THE WORLD:

"THE WORLD IS MINE."

——おやすみプンプン❾・完——



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散り散りになっていた
歯車が今噛み合い、
ついに止まっていた時間が
動き出す……!!
次巻、ポテトサラダ編に続く!!

おやすみプンプン⑨

ヤングサンデーコミックス

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